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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19487

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1997 SHVAT 13, 5757 12:57 PM (MADAN) 4

NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

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So help me God
US President Bill Clinton waves to a crowd on his second term yesterday by Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist, on the steps of the Capitol in Washington. Story, Page 4. (AP)

PM says no to fully sovereign Palestinian state

By LIAT COLLINS
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday emphatically repeated his opposition to the creation of a fully sovereign Palestinian state, but he did not close the door to a demilitarized state. His remarks came at an impromptu press conference following his appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He described the reports that his adviser David Bar-Illan had said Israel would not oppose a Palestinian state as "an incorrect quote" and denied that Bar-Illan had issued a trial balloon on a Palestinian state. (Story, Page 2)

"One of the things that distinguishes this government is that it seeks to prevent a Palestinian state. Sovereignty implies those powers which can threaten the State of Israel," he said, adding they include importing arms and controlling air space and water sources.

"And we are different because rather than galloping to the 1967 boundaries and facilitating a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, we seek a different solution," he said. "We seek a united Jerusalem under Israeli

Continued on Page 2

Netanyahu, Bar-Illan: Good cop, bad cop

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
The media yesterday made a major mistake in playing off the remarks of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his adviser David Bar-Illan on Palestinian statehood against each other.

They are really saying the same thing, but one's saying the cup is half full, and the other that it's half empty.

Bar-Illan, first in remarks to *The Jerusalem Post* and later to *The New York Times*, has clarified that Israel could accept a limited Palestinian state, which is demilitarized, does not control its air-space and does not have defense pacts with Iran and Iraq.

Netanyahu accents the negative, saying that it is impossible for Israel to accept a fully sovereign Palestinian state which is fully militarized. By focusing on the negative, Netanyahu can only be implying that Israel could accept a demilitarized state. If he was not implying this, he would have to say that he opposes a state in any

Continued on Page 2

US fingers Dhahran bombing suspect

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
US intelligence suspects Ahmed Mughasil, a Saudi Shiite currently in Teheran, of being the political mastermind behind last year's Dhahran bombing which killed 19 American servicemen, Washington sources indicate.

According to these sources, Prince Turki Faisal, the head of Saudi foreign intelligence, is currently visiting Washington and is believed to be discussing Mughasil's involvement, as well as that of Iran, with US officials.

These sources say Mughasil's name was given to the Clinton administration by Saudi Arabia, and the US has independently given the information credence as its own investigation progresses.

Saudi Interior Minister for Security Prince Nayef gave evidence about the bombing to Federal Bureau of Investigation head Louis Freeh during his visit to Riyadh in November. After Freeh's visit, the FBI released a statement saying that "Freeh states that he... was pleased with the efforts and thoroughness of the Saudi law enforcement officials to solve this heinous act of terrorism."

The Saudis reportedly believe that the bombing was carried out

Ma'aleh Ephraim gets okay to expand

By HERB KEINON
Ma'aleh Ephraim received final permission yesterday to build some 60 new homes in the settlement, the first time it has received approval to build in local years.

Ma'aleh Ephraim Local Council head David Kopolovitch said the homes will be built by private investors and are intended for the children of residents who "want to come home" to the settlement of 1,700 residents in the Jordan Valley.

At an impromptu press conference yesterday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said, "Neither Oslo nor these agreements rule out the continued building in Judea and Samaria. Our policy is known and clear."

The approval comes amid an ongoing debate in the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza about how best to pressure the government into fulfilling its obligations to the settlements.

"Slowly the facts are becoming clear - none of the promises that have been given along the way are being implemented... The bottom line is that there are many words, but little talk," Aharon Domb, general-secretary of the council, said in an interview with Arutz 7 on Sunday.

David Bar-Illan, a senior adviser to Netanyahu, said yesterday that he understands the settlement movement's "frustration and impatience." But, he added, "the prime minister will keep his promises."

Kopolovitch said that the permits given to Ma'aleh Ephraim prove that the government "is not

Continued on Page 2

Heartless Safed thieves leave blind without sound of music

By DAVID RUDGE
Heartless thieves have removed the sound of music from a Safed center which provides assistance hundreds of blind youngsters and adults.

The burglars who broke into the Center for the Advancement of the Blind on January 12 stole all the musical instruments in the building.

They also took kettles, irons, and cooking utensils used to help teach the blind how to cope with daily chores in their own homes.

"Altogether we estimate the value of the stolen items at about NIS 75,000, which is a small fortune as far as we are concerned, especially as we only had enough money for insurance against accidents, but not for equipment."

"Fortunately the doors to the gym, offices, and the computer

Continued on Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

Six year-old girl found dead in bathtub

A six-year-old girl was found dead in the bathtub of her home in Haifa's Ramat Eshkol district on Sunday night after apparently drowning, police reported yesterday.

Hadass Gestelidge was discovered by members of her family after they grew concerned about her taking so long in the bathroom. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances, although the body was sent to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute for a post mortem.

David Rudge

Man found dead in Haifa

Police last night launched an investigation into the death of a man, about 35, in Haifa's Sculpture Garden on Sderot Tzion. The unidentified man was discovered in the park in serious condition with signs of violence on his body. A Magen David Adom doctor was called to the scene but was unable to resuscitate the man.

David Rudge

'Albright must meet Syrians before talks'

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prospects for renewed Israeli-Syrian peace talks will remain dormant, at least until Secretary of State-designate Madeline Albright meets with Syrian officials, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday.

"Don't expect anything new regarding talks with Syria at least until Albright meets with the Syrians," an aide to the premier said, amid speculation that Damascus would seek to capitalize on the Hebron agreement by agreeing to resume talks.

It remains unclear whether Albright will visit Damascus as part of a regional swing or will be content to hold talks with Syrian officials in Washington.

Syria says it will not resume peace talks unless Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu commits to resuming the talks where they left off during the tenure of the Labor government.

As first reported in Ha'aretz, Israel sought and received a letter

from Secretary of State Warren Christopher in September saying that the May 1995 "non-paper" on principles governing security arrangements does not legally bind the Netanyahu government, since it is unsigned.

Syria wants Israel to adopt that "non-paper," as well as a hypothetical conditional understanding between then premier Yitzhak Rabin and President Bill Clinton which said that Israel would fully withdraw from the Golan. Netanyahu vehemently objects to this.

Syrian officials reportedly denied yesterday knowing anything about the Christopher letter.

Speaking following his appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Netanyahu said Israel is prepared to resume the discussions.

"Perhaps now that the US government has been encoined, this will facilitate the resumption of the talks," he said.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

MKs to receive more perks

By LIAT COLLINS

Less than a month after they voted to raise their wages, MKs yesterday granted themselves up to \$10,000 a year to rent office space in their home towns.

The House Committee yesterday authorized the proposal by MKs Meir Sheerit (Likud) and Haggai Meron (Labor), who said the offices are necessary to carry out their public work on Sundays and Thursdays and during Knesset recesses. The amount would be allotted as a monthly allowance of \$1,000 or a maximum up to \$10,000 a year.

It was supported by four other committee members - chairman Raphael Pinhasi

(Shas), Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen, Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash) and Abdul Malik Dahamshe (Democratic Arab Party). Yehuda Harel (Third Way), Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) and Avraham Stern (National Religious Party) abstained.

The suggestion was completely rejected by Shevah Weiss (Labor) and Moleket leader Rehavam Ze'evi. Speaker Dan Tichon also expressed reservations and said he would establish a committee to examine the issue.

Meron described the local offices as "a public service" and said they would enable MKs to meet the public when the Knesset is closed.

Ze'evi called the proposal "corrupt" and

said political parties should pay for the offices out of the money they receive under the Party Funding Law. He said the MKs are "milking the state for all they can get."

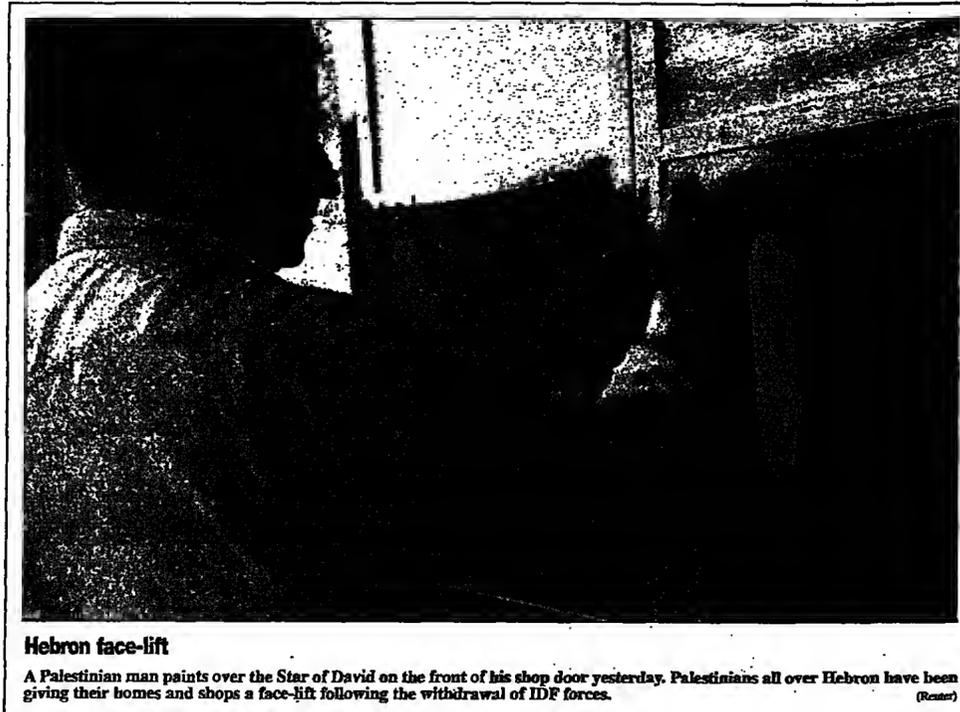
The money for the offices would cover the rent, cleaning, secretarial services, phone and fax, local taxes, electricity, water and office furniture (up to 10 percent of the annual amount or 20% for the first year only). The bills for the services will pass directly from the suppliers to the Knesset.

MKs can jointly rent services or office space. They cannot rent from family members or their business partners. The Knesset will not pay for offices in hotels, even if the offices are rented on a commercial floor in

the hotel.

Today, the committee is expected to discuss Finance Minister Dan Meridor's request to forgo the 6.9% wage hike MKs voted themselves at the beginning of the month. In October, the MKs were given a 33% wage hike in accordance with the Rosen-Zvi Committee recommendations, which also banned them from moonlighting.

Several MKs said if the latest hike is implemented they would donate the money instead. Yisrael Be'alyah MKs are considering donating their raise to immigrant students, while MK Yael Dayan (Labor) said she would give the money to a rape crisis center.



Hebron face-lift

A Palestinian man paints over the Star of David on the front of his shop door yesterday. Palestinians all over Hebron have been giving their homes and shops a face-lift following the withdrawal of IDF forces.

(Reuters)

Thousands at Hebron mourning

By HERB KEBRON

Thousands of Jews went to the Machpela Cave in Hebron yesterday and tore their clothes in a sign of mourning over the transfer of the majority of the city to non-Jews.

"Everyone should tear a piece of clothing, even a simple one, like a shirt, and those who can't tear a shirt, [should tear] an undershirt as an expression of pain and agony over the laying waste of Eretz Yisrael," said Kiryat Arba Rabbi Dov Lior.

Lior said that from this symbolic tearing of the clothes, "we will get stronger to face the future, to build up Hebron, to build Eretz Yisrael, so that it will be settled, expanded, and prosper."

The police arrested three activists of the Ideological Front, the successor organization to Kach, at the rally who wore T-shirts with a picture of Rabbi Meir Kahane and the slogan "Kahane was right," and who also distributed leaflets reading, "Biti will divide Jerusalem."

After the ceremony, the leaders of the Hebron settlement met with OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan, OC Judea and Samaria Maj-Gen. Gabi Ofir, and other top officers in the area. The meeting was still going on close to midnight.

Arafat meets Hebron Islamic leaders, Hamas stays underground

By JON IMMANUEL

When Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat entered Hebron on Sunday, missing were the green signs of Hamas, the Islamic movement which may have the largest support of any political group in the city.

Hebron is described as two cities - Israeli and Palestinian. In fact, it may be three.

Arafat did not ignore the Islamic movement, the third side of the Hebron triangle. He met with several of its most prominent notables during his short visit, including Hashem Natsbe, head of the town's Islamic chamber of commerce; Tayseer Tamimi, head of the Islamic courts; and Talal Sidr, chairman of the Islamic youth movement.

Natsbe, a cousin of Arafat-appointed Mayor Mustafa Natsbe, said that the meeting was a "goodwill meeting only." However, Col. Jibril Rajoub, the

Preventive Security chief now headquartered in Hebron, said the participants promised to respect law and order.

Rajoub, a Hebron-area native, apparently believes the threat of violence does not come from these Moslem bastions of respectability. The threat is more likely to come from Jewish extremists, who are not in his domain, and anonymous but extremist Moslem youth, who are more likely roaming the corridors of recently reopened Hebron University than the city's official institutions.

Arafat visited the university briefly, where he was greeted by flags, posters, and even poems composed in his honor, but he did not meet with Hamas supporters, who have run the student union since 1986. Ali Khatib, a Fatah student representative, said he is sure the scale of Arafat's reception shows Fatah supporters now outnumber

Hamas activists.

But Iyad Juceidi, who runs Hebron's private Mustaqbel TV, a station with an Islamic outlook, said he spent Sunday canvassing Palestinians, and about half his interviewees were not excited by Arafat's visit.

The words of Jawad Jaabari, 30, a student of education who said he has spent five years in Israeli prisons since 1990 and maintained he is an ex-member of the "military wing of the Hamas bureau in Hebron (Izzadin Kassam)," may represent the feelings of young militants.

"There is a sea of blood between Hebron's residents and the settlers," he said in an interview yesterday at the student council office. "We cannot avoid confrontation. No one can forget the massacre at the mosque and I cannot say Hamas has dropped armed struggle as its strategic choice."

However, he added, "We accept the Palestinian redeployment as a fact. We have to build relations on this."

Jaabari, sitting under a picture of Palestine from the river to the sea with an open Koran across it, claimed that since Friday he has had to pass four roadblocks between his home near the Cave of Machpela and the university. An examination of the route showed there were two IDF and two Palestinian checkpoints.

Jaabari said protest would take political forms - graffiti writing, demonstrations and the like. But whatever happened, Hamas had an assurance from PA secretary-general Tayeb Abdel-Rabehem that activists would not be arrested on the grounds of suspicion only.

In addition, acts by Hamas activists in Hebron would not lead to crackdowns on Hamas in other towns, he said.

IN THE NEWS

Bar-Ilan: I was misquoted about Palestinian state

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

David Bar-Ilan, the prime minister's senior policy adviser, yesterday accused the media of misquoting his statements concerning the probability of a future Palestinian state, which will be recognized by the world.

Bar-Ilan's statements, published in Sunday's *New York Times*, aroused sharp criticism from the right-wing of the Likud and other parties. They charged that after the Hebron "sell-out," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is now sending up a trial balloon vis-a-vis a Palestinian state.

The *Times* quoted Bar-Ilan as saying: "We are probably closer to an entity that will probably call itself a state, because developments point in that direction." He cited "the recognition by the Likud government of ceding some territory for Palestinian rule."

Yediot Aharonot's headline on the

Times story had Bar-Ilan saying: "We will have to accept world recognition of a Palestinian state."

Netanyahu, who was reportedly furious when he read that headline yesterday, once again found himself having to deny Bar-Ilan's quoted statements. He called his adviser early yesterday morning to demand an explanation.

Bar-Ilan said he had been misquoted. He had not spoken of Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state, but said the term "state" does not bother him.

According to *Ha'aretz*, Bar-Ilan said in the interview that there is almost no doubt the Palestinians will call the entity to be formed a state, and that the world will recognize it as such. Bar-Ilan stressed that Israel will act to impose restrictions on the Palestinian state which will prevent its turning into one.

Bar-Ilan said on Channel 2 last night that "the names themselves don't matter here. The prime minister

never referred to the business of the name. I am not a trial balloon. The prime minister gives me complete autonomy."

But Netanyahu's denials of support for a Palestinian state failed to calm the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, who demanded an explanation of Bar-Ilan's statements.

Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) said that "Netanyahu must call his adviser to order so that these things don't recur. Otherwise, it means that the Prime Minister's Office is probably trying to prepare public opinion for a basic turn-around."

"I think the prime minister sends Bar-Ilan first to *The Jerusalem Post*, then to *The New York Times*, to check and see whether the water has receded from the idea of a Palestinian state, and whether the term can be used already," said Haim Ramon (Labor).

Tug-of war erupts over Hebron land registry

By JON IMMANUEL

The Civil Administration and the Palestinian Authority have started a tug-of-war over the Hebron-area land registries. Israel is refusing to turn over the originals and the PA is refusing to accept copies.

The source of the problem is that the land registries includes property in Area C, which is still under Israeli control. Israel maintains it is mostly state land, and the Palestinians say it is mostly private-owned.

Israel fears that if it hands over the originals, the PA may make alterations to justify its own claims on the property, which makes up 73 percent of the West Bank. Sizable parts of this area are

to be transferred to the PA between March 1997 and August 1998.

The Palestinians demand the originals because they fear that the copies they are given may have been tampered with and because, since they replace the Civil Administration, they should not have to accept duplicates.

Civil Administration spokesman Peter Lerner said that since the problem affects not only Hebron, "we offered to establish a committee to settle this dispute throughout the West Bank and they rejected this offer."

The problem had practical consequences yesterday, when the PA in Tulkarim complained that private Israeli companies are turning a vast area of rocky land by Wadi Yatin into a quarry. That not only

disfranchised people from their land but would turn them into laborers for the Israeli quarry owners, said local PA officials.

Lerner said the land is not privately-owned but is state land. The private-state land conflict originates in Israel's refusal to recognize as private any land that was not registered in an individual's name or was not worked continuously for 10 years. Palestinians say that much land is owned by large families to avoid sub-dividing it into smaller and smaller plots. Title is passed down through generations and neighbors all recognize one another's borders.

Jordan was in the process of registering this land, some 45 percent of the West Bank, as private when war broke out in 1967.

STATE

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sovereignty; we seek broad areas of defense for Israel; we seek the right and the actual implementation of Jewish settlement of the land; and we offer the Palestinians self-government, but without the sovereign powers that could threaten us, in other words not a sovereign state."

He said this is the mandate he was given and that he had said the same things before he was elected.

Discussing the Hebron redeployment, Netanyahu said: "I think there was a distinct improvement over the way that [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat spoke in the six

other towns, where he spoke of jihad and incitement in very extreme terms."

He said, however, that it remains to be seen whether this change will be sustained over time. Netanyahu said Israel had been very concerned by Preventive Security Service head Col. Jibril Rajoub's statements inciting against the Jewish residents of Hebron. However, after Israel protested, "we were promised an immediate change," and the improvement could be seen in Arafat's relatively moderate speech.

He told the committee that the Palestinian Police in Hebron are no longer armed with Gilon rifles, which violated the agreement, after Israel demanded they be handed over. Coalition MKs, however, said it is not clear where these arms are now.

GOOD COP

Continued from Page 1

shape or form.

Crucially, both Netanyahu and Bar-Ilan have subtly shifted the public debate on whether there should or should not be a Palestinian state to focusing on sharply defining such an entity's capabilities. The two are playing good cop and bad cop.

For the Likud audience at home, Netanyahu is seeking to blur the issue by hoping to create a simplistic headline demonstrating that he has not strayed from the party orthodoxy against statehood following the Hebron deal, when in fact his position has changed.

Yet, Arabs, the media and diplomats could seize on Bar-Ilan's statement that clearly indicates that Netanyahu has left the door open to a demilitarized state, and that he is only worried about a militarized one.

Nonetheless, whether the cup is half full or half empty, it is a different cup than the one Netanyahu held while running for premier. It would be refreshing, however, if the prime minister would realize that the Israeli public is more mature than he thinks.

By juggling with the public, he would find that he represents not just the half of the Israeli public that elected him but an overwhelming majority.

Report: Extremist group threatens PM

A group calling itself "The Jewish Group of Vengeance" issued a statement yesterday threatening to assassinate Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel Television and Army Radio said.

"Just as we managed to reach Yitzhak Rabin, this too will be the end of the prime minister who betrays his people and his country," said the announcement.

A source in the Shin Bet internal security service said security on Netanyahu had been increased as a result of the threat.

MA'ALEH

Continued from Page 1

all talk, but action as well." Kopolovitch, a member of the settlement council and the Likud central committee, is opposed to suggestions for forceful action.

Domb criticized the government for not yet implementing one of its better known promises to the settlements - its decision after the murders of Efraim and Etta Tzur by terrorists in December to reinstate the settlements as areas of top national priority.

Kopolovitch, however, said this decision will be implemented "in the next couple of weeks."

Netanyahu met with Kopolovitch and other Jordan Valley settlement heads in December and said that final approval to build 470 new housing units would be given "soon." The 60 units were the first of this batch.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

THEEVES

Continued from Page 1

room, where we have three special Braillex computers which cost \$29,000 each, were locked and the keys hidden and the thieves didn't manage to break into them."

The center, founded 25 years ago, is the only privately-run institution of its kind in the country. It helps blind people of all ages to cope with their disability, while encouraging development of natural talents and their other senses, particularly hearing. Music plays an important therapeutic role, in addition to providing the students with entertainment.

The center, has an annual budget of \$180,000, of which \$150,000 comes from private donations. "With such a low budget, the theft of all this equipment is a major blow to us. I simply can't comprehend what type of person would do something like this," said Cohen.

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Ethiopians protest housing conditions

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Ethiopian immigrants at three caravan sites in the south and center of the country yesterday began a strike to demand that the Absorption Ministry give them "suitable" permanent housing.

The immigrants, who are currently living at Tsohar and Mevo'im in the Negev and Hulda near Rehovot, shut the gates to the sites, stayed home from work and refused to send their children to school.

The strikers said the ministry had instituted a number of sanctions against them in order to pressure them to leave the sites. These included cutting off electricity to synagogues, stopping enrichment programs for children, closing local health clinics and stopping free bus tickets.

Earlier, MK Adisur Massala (Labor), who heads the Unified Ethiopian Immigrants Organization, had sent a letter to Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu requesting that the Housing Ministry handle the question of the Ethiopian immigrants' permanent dwellings. The Housing Ministry is in charge of permanent accommodation for immigrants from the CIS, while the Absorption Ministry deals with that for Ethiopian immigrants.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein retorted that the strike was "an attempt to use families in distress in order to hit the Absorption Ministry below the belt for political motives." In the past seven months, since Edelstein took over the ministry, 300 of the 450 Ethiopian families that were living at the sites were evacuated, the Absorption Ministry spokesman said.

The unified organization gave different figures, saying that 280 families remained in caravan sites - almost as many as the 300 families from the CIS, despite the huge discrepancy in the number of immigrants from the different

areas. Many of the families have been there for some six years, the organization's spokesman said.

Both sides did agree that the families were all "hard-core cases" - families with many children, elderly persons or single-parent families.

Ministry spokesman Yehuda Glick said that they have been offered a variety of housing solutions, but have refused them all. "This is because the apartments are not in the South. It is especially important for these families to be close to their extended families," organization spokesman David Golan said.

Some 280 apartments meant for Ethiopian immigrants are currently being populated, Glick said, adding that the ministry would not evacuate families against their wish. But Glick said it would continue to reduce services to the sites since these are being evacuated and because of ministry budget cuts.



Tu Bishvat fun

Shoppers at the Ahim Yisrael Mall in Jerusalem stop yesterday to examine the 12 different types of saplings being sold by the Jewish National Fund in honor of Tu Bishvat. The exhibit is open from 4 p.m. daily. Free educational activities for children are also available.

Metuna meets to combat road deaths

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

"Get political!" was the advice Jerusalem City Councilwoman Anat Hoffman yesterday offered to Metuna, the organization for road safety.

Hoffman, whose mother and sister-in-law were victims of separate road accidents, was responding to Metuna activists' complaints regarding the discontinuation of a speed enforcement project undertaken in Netanya with the cooperation of the local authorities.

Metuna said that traffic accidents decreased from February to July 1996, the period its project was operating. However, traffic police and the Transportation Ministry deemed the project a failure.

"We could save 1,000 injuries a year and at least 200 deaths," if the project is reimplemented, Prof. Gary Ben-David head of the Center for Driver Research and Accident Prevention said, adding that speeding is the cause of over 95 percent of traffic accidents.

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy said he supports Metna's efforts, but could not ask for additional funding for the project until further research is conducted.

"If you prove to be right," he promised, "we'll use it elsewhere, but if you're wrong, we'll examine why and do what we can to prevent accidents."

Addressing a Metuna workshop in Jerusalem, Hoffman declared it is naive to believe professionalism alone would secure the necessary government backing for accident prevention projects. Public pressure is the only way to get the government to take notice, she asserted.

"Everyone agrees that more should be done to promote road safety," she said, "but in the last elections, it wasn't on anyone's platform."

Hoffman proposed that Metuna initiate class action suits on behalf of families whose members were injured or killed in Netanya since the cessation of the project or that of an earlier one in Rehovot.

Investigators begin F-15 crash inquiry

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The Air Force inquiry into Sunday's F-15 crash probed the crash site, sifting through the remnants of the warplane yesterday and questioning the pilot and navigator. The investigators are not likely to present their initial findings for at least another week.

The airman, a captain and a first lieutenant, survived after they bailed out. Sources familiar with the US-made IAF jet said the successful ejection was one of the first, if not the first, successful bailout from an F-15 by the IAF.

At least two previous bailouts ended in tragedy due to faulty ejection seats. But these have recently been replaced with the upgraded ACES-2 model, standard among most F-15 fighter jets around the world.

"I'm sure this was a relief for IAF pilots because they were afraid of ejection out of an F-15," the source said.

Because of its large size, two engines and dual mechanical/electronic control system, the F-15 is considered one of the most stable fighter jets in service. Losing one cost the IAF between \$40-50 million.

Meanwhile, Revivim residents started assessing the damage the crash of the jet onto their Negev kibbutz. While some were concerned over the financial damages, particularly the deaths of half-a-dozen valuable ostriches, most kibbutzniks were worried about future accidents. At least one piece of the jet hit a house and landed in an empty crib.

OC Air Force Maj-Gen. Eitan Ben-Elhanan met with the head of the kibbutz secretariat yesterday following complaints that an IAF representative had not addressed kibbutz members, Itim reported.

Dani Shahaf, manager of the ostrich farm, said that six ostriches had died due to the excitement from the noise of the crash, landing of the two airman on the farm and subsequent helicopter activity.

Four more of the birds, which cost NIS 5,000 each, were suffering from severe trauma and would most likely die as well, Shahaf said, adding that the real damage would be if the birds stop laying eggs.

"There is no doubt that the trauma will severely harm their egg laying. I only hope the hlow won't be total," Shahaf said.

Foxman: Delamuraz apology didn't curb antisemitism

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - For all the apologies, Switzerland is not challenging the antisemitism that has surfaced there since the former Swiss president charged the Jewish community with "blackmail," the head of the Anti-Defamation League has charged.

"They have done nothing, nothing to stand up to antisemitism," said ADL director Abraham Foxman, who returned to New York over the weekend from a fact-finding mission to Switzerland. "We do not see the outrage by the good people [of Switzerland] against antisemitism, which is now out there."

In meetings with officials, Foxman told the Swiss that the Jewish community respects the fact that Switzerland's inquiry into its war-time relations with Germany will be difficult. But, he

said: "The Jews are not their enemy; history is their enemy." Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, then president and now economics minister, said on December 31 that Jewish groups' calls for a Holocaust compensation fund amounted to "blackmail."

"Delamuraz unleashed and legitimized a wave of antisemitic expression," Foxman said, adding that members of the 30,000-strong Swiss Jewish community "are afraid to go out with a kipa." Delamuraz has since written a letter of apology, and parliamentarians have issued a statement, and now everyone thinks we have resolved a great deal, the ADL director said.

"We haven't resolved a thing," he said. "All we are at is the status quo ante, December 31, with all challenges and all the issues, and even worse, higher expectations."

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SUPER-SOLX HYPERCOL

1997 The Jerusalem Post
perks

Thousand at Hebron mourning

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NEWS in brief

Policeman victim of hit-and-run driver

A traffic policeman was lightly injured last night in a hit-and-run accident in Holon. The policeman pulled over a driver who had committed a traffic offense and discovered his license was invalid. He asked the driver for the keys to the car and his identification, then went to check details about the driver in his patrol car. The driver, using another set of keys, took advantage of the situation and roared off, lightly hitting the policeman, who was taken to a local hospital for treatment. Police later arrested the driver.

Bassiouy visits Rabbi Yosef

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouy visited Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef last night to thank him for his help in achieving the Hebron agreement, according to Shas sources. Bassiouy also wished Yosef a full recovery from his illness.

Clinton inaugurated for his second term

Post news agencies

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton, who bounced back from an electoral rebuke in 1994, took the oath of office for a second term yesterday.

"Today we can declare government is not the problem and government is not the solution," Clinton said. "We the American people, we are the solution."

Clinton started his second four-year term as US chief executive with a call for a "new spirit of community" as the United States enters the 21st century.

"The challenge of our past remains the challenge of our future: will we be one nation, one people, with one common destiny - or not?" Clinton asked.

Before the swearing-in, Clinton and his family and Vice President Al Gore and his family started the day by attending a prayer service at the Metropolitan AME Church, a predominantly black church in the center of Washington.

Black political leader Jesse Jackson, an ordained minister and candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988, spoke at the service and asked for a moment of silence for the son of popular comedian Bill Cosby, who was murdered in Los Angeles last week.

It was the first official event on an inaugural schedule that drew thousands of loyal Democrats and ordinary citizens to Washington for festivities that were to go on until early this morning.

The inauguration coincided with a federal holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., the assassinated civil rights leader, a day traditionally devoted to reflections on racial harmony.

In a bylined article in yesterday's Washington Times, Clinton said the United States faced immense challenges, and that his goal was "to prepare the nation for the new century."

"My one great hope is that we will accomplish our journey in the right spirit, with civility, respect and all our citizens feeling that they are part of our national community," he wrote.

Rather than just bask in the glory of being the first Democratic president to be re-elected to a second term since 1936, Clinton seemed eager to make his inaugural speech a serious appeal for both political and racial healing.

"I hope that I can set a tone today and in the days ahead that will help flush the poison out of the atmosphere and get people to thinking about the folks that sent us here," he told the Washington Post in an interview.

Among those attending the inauguration, was former Russian security chief Alexander Lebed.

He met with two Republican senators before attending the ceremony as an invited guest of a private US citizen.

Lebed, who also met with some Clinton administration officials earlier, met at the Capitol with Sens. William Roth, R-DeL., and Robert Smith, R-Ore., for about an hour.

Roth, who is president of the North Atlantic Assembly, a group of parliamentarians from 16 NATO countries, said after the closed-door meeting that he found Lebed "more flexible" on the issue of NATO expansion than some of his Russian colleagues.

Lebed, according to Roth, said he was "dissatisfied" with the Yeltsin's government on NATO because it meant Russia had "voluntarily isolated itself on the sidelines."

Lebed, speaking to reporters through a translator, said he would be attending one of the inaugural balls with his wife, Inna, who was in the meeting with the senators.

"I have a dinner jacket, a bow tie and even socks and I intend to enjoy myself," Lebed said. The capital was alight with parties on

inauguration eve Sunday.

The biggest was a Hollywood-style gala for the president and Hillary Rodham Clinton at USAir Arena. They brought along their 16-year-old daughter, Chelsea.

"You're three of the coolest people I know," co-host Whoopi Goldberg cooed to the Clintons.

Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton appear on stage after the finale at the Inaugural Gala.

At the close of the two-hour gala, Clinton joined the artists' onstage and thanked them for helping launch his second term. The show brought together some of the most glamorous names in TV, film, music and dance: co-hosts Goldberg, Michael Douglas and Candice Bergen and performers Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, James Taylor, Kenny Rogers, Trisha Yearwood, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Yo-Yo Ma.

There were touches of home, too - and always, references to Clinton's campaign themes.

Country stars Rogers and Yearwood sang a duet composed by Randy Goodrum, a member of Clinton's high school band, that touched on the bridge Clinton always mentions: "There's a bridge to tomorrow. Together we must cross," the two sang.

Court orders labor pact extension at Haifa Chemicals

By DAVID RUDGE

The Haifa regional labor court last night handed down an unprecedented decision by ordering the collective labor agreement of the Haifa Chemicals byside plant extended for another two years, after management earlier annulled the accord.

Judge Doron Maiblum, who gave detailed reasons for his ruling, upheld a petition by the Histadrut against management's cancellation of the collective agreement.

He cited among his reasons extreme lack of integrity shown by management; that the company had exaggerated the serious economic situation it claimed it had fallen into; and management had created an unreasonable situation of worker inferiority in relation to their employers.

Maiblum also instructed the two sides to continue negotiations, despite the fact that talks which began on Sunday ended early yesterday morning without any further progress being made.

On the basis of the decision, Histadrut Haifa branch chairman Baruch Zaltz and trades union department head Yigal Cohen instructed the firm's 500 staff to end their strike and return to work.

It was unclear, however, whether management would agree to reopen the factory after it won an earlier appeal to the national labor court in Jerusalem.

The national labor court on Sunday issued a ruling banning workers from continuing their sit-in at the byside factory. It did, however, allow the nine members of the works committee to have access to the plant and hold meetings there.

Haifa Chemicals spokesman Elan Loewenstein said last night that the

company would uphold the decision of the Haifa district court, and expected workers and Histadrut representatives to do the same in respect of the national labor court ruling.

The firm's call was complicated, however, by the decision of the Histadrut to instruct the workers to end their strike - setting the stage for further potential trouble at the factory and protracted legal proceedings.

Loewenstein said management would appeal today to the national labor court against yesterday's ruling by the Haifa regional labor court.

He said companies could not compete on world markets while tied to labor agreements "under which works committees manage factories and management is forced to carry out their dictates."

"In our opinion a company cannot be forced to extend agreements which do not match the reality in which it operates," said Loewenstein.

The company had sought to annul the former collective labor agreement in order to carry out sweeping reforms and efficiency measures, including dismissing 120 workers, to enable the firm to compete profitably on overseas markets.

The workers, backed by the Histadrut, have bitterly opposed management's plans, fearing it would break the back of organized labor at the plant and lead to the introduction of personal contracts.

Attempts to reach a mutually acceptable compromise in talks between management and the workers have so far broken down on two key issues - management's insistence on firing 30 "problematic" workers in addition to 60 who have agreed to early retirement, and further cuts in labor costs.

Socialists seek control of Belgrade

BELGRADE - Refusing to yield in a nine-week tussle over municipal elections, President Slobodan Milosevic's Socialists are going to court over control of Belgrade, a judge said yesterday.

Tension in the street was also rising as thousands of students faced down riot police in a round-the-clock protest that stretched into its second night. But Milosevic showed no intention of bowing to international pressure to recognize opposition wins in Belgrade and 13 other towns last November.

News of court action by the Socialists came after Belgrade's electoral commission last week surprisingly announced for the second time that the opposition had won Belgrade in the local elections.

The Socialists, who control the commission, already overturned the commission decision once by appealing it in court.

Opposition and commission officials had earlier said that Milosevic's party had appealed to the same Belgrade court to overturn last week's commission ruling.

The lower court ruling taking away the victory in Belgrade will remain in effect until a ruling by the Serbian Supreme Court. The court did not rule on who won the ballot, leaving that question up in the air.

A short while later, the Serbian Supreme Court ruled the Socialists had won the western town of Sabac, one of 14 cities where the opposition coalition had won victories in the November 17 balloting.

The Belgrade city election commission ruled that the opposition coalition had won 60 of 110 seats in the Belgrade city council, giving them control of the Belgrade city government. At the time, the city electoral commission said the Serbian Socialist Party of President Slobodan Milosevic would probably appeal the decision.



Frozen in time A man shovels next to a snow-capped bust of Lenin in Moscow yesterday. Today marks the 73rd year since Lenin's death. (Reuters)

Albright confirmation sent to Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) - Madeline Albright won easy approval yesterday from Sen. Jesse Helms and his Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which voted unanimously to send her nomination as secretary of state to the full Senate.

Albright, the first President Clinton's new Cabinet nominee to pass Senate confirmation, will become the highest-ranking woman in any administration. The Senate is expected to approve her nomination tomorrow.

During a January 8 confirmation hearing, the committee led by Helms questioned Albright for almost eight hours. And on Friday, she submitted the answers to 215 additional written questions filed by members of the panel after the hearing.

Although much of the questioning was amicable, Albright appeared to antagonize Helms by insisting that Congress approve an increase in the foreign operations budget and pay

up the \$1.4 billion the United States owes the United Nations in arrears.

Helms, a leading budget-cutter who has conditioned payments to the world body on sweeping reforms in its organization, responded by saying he believed Albright was "sincerely wrong."

Still, the spat did not seem to affect Albright's chances for quick confirmation by the Republican-controlled Congress.

The former ambassador to the UN earned support from many Republicans by advocating punitive measures against Cuba and blocking re-nomination of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali late in Clinton's first term.

Yesterday's committee meeting, held in the committee's ornate Capitol meeting room just two hours before Clinton's inauguration, lasted less than 10 minutes. The dozen senators present - out of the panel's full complement of 18 - voted unani-

mously to endorse the nomination and send it on to the Senate floor.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-DeL., ranking Democrat on the committee, said he expected "it to sail through the Senate as it did through the committee."

"This is the first and most visible example of bipartisanship," Biden said. "It kind of worries me," he joked.

Albright is the first in the Senate review of Clinton's second-term Cabinet. Other nominees, particularly CIA director-designate Anthony Lake, could face tougher grilling by Senate committees.

All of America's 63 previous secretaries of state have been men.

If confirmed, the Czech-born Albright would theoretically become third in line of succession to the US presidency, behind the vice president and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. But her foreign birth would preclude her from assuming the presidency because the Constitution requires the president to be a "natural born citizen."

Report: Iraq hiding bio-weapons

FRANKFURT (AP) - Western intelligence believes Saddam Hussein may be concealing biological weapons inside underground depots in the Iraqi desert, a German newspaper reported yesterday.

Iraq was supposed to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction under terms of the treaty that ended the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

But the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said Iraq has apparently hidden warheads filled with aflatoxin, a toxic substance which causes long-term illness and cancer.

According to the paper, UN inspectors had assumed Iraq had produced 2,200 liters of aflatoxin before the Gulf War and filled warheads with 1,580 liters.

The newspaper said "there are now signs that Iraq may have produced a far greater amount of aflatoxin."

Suspect says he murdered eight collaborators

Judea and Samaria District police have arrested a suspect in the murder of eight collaborators in the Tulkarm region during the intifada.

The suspect, Jihad Hassoun Fatah, 27, from Burhan near Ramallah, was picked up on December 17 at a police station on Mt. Gerizim when he came there to get back bail he posted in a military court relating to other charges.

He was wanted by Judea and Samaria District police for questioning on other matters, and was interrogated by them. To their surprise, he revealed that he had kidnapped and murdered eight collaborators in the Tulkarm region, and witnesses two other murders between 1993-94. He also served as the head of a Fatah Hawks organization active in the region. He added that the murders were carried out with two pistols and an Uzi submachine gun, which had been turned over to the Palestinian Police in Jericho. (TIM)

Book department advertisement for 'LIVING SYMBOLS: Symbols in Jewish Art and Tradition' by Ida Huberman. Includes price (NIS 105), publisher (JP), and ordering information.

Book advertisement for 'MAKING PEACE WITH THE PLO: The Rabin Government's Road to the Oslo Accord' by David Makovsky. Includes price (NIS 75) and ordering information.

Advertisement for 'REMEMBER THE SINGING RABBI...' audio cassette. Includes price (NIS 45) and ordering information.

Partial view of advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'Police', 'Record-flight', 'New Aust speak b', and 'Yeltsin'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

Police arrest hijacker of Japanese plane



The All Nippon Airways plane which was hijacked yesterday.

TOKYO (AP) - A man briefly hijacked a domestic airline flight yesterday using threats and a kitchen knife, but apparently dropped his demands and was arrested when he left the plane during a stop in southern Japan.

None of the 192 people on the All Nippon Airways flight from Osaka to the southwestern city of Fukuoka was hurt. News reports quoted police as saying the hijacker was drunk and possibly mentally troubled.

The hijacker commandeered ANA flight 217 half-way into its one-hour trip from Osaka when he entered the cockpit with a 15-cm knife, said Naomi Okimoto, a spokeswoman for the airlines.

The Boeing 777 arrived on schedule at Fukuoka International Airport, 899 km southwest of Tokyo, after the pilot notified authorities of the hijack.

The hijacker demanded to be flown to another country, but agreed to let all the passengers leave the plane before taking off.

It was unclear where he wanted to go.

Just over a half-hour later, police arrested Yuichi Yano, 31, as he walked off the plane with other passengers into an arrivals lobby, according to a Fukuoka prefectural (state) police spokesman Masanori Hayashi.

Hayashi said Yano was charged with illegal possession of a weapon.

Several local news reports quoted police immediately after the arrest as saying he was drunk, and Kyodo News agency quoted Fukuoka police later as saying the jobless man from Osaka had psychiatric troubles.

Police released no details of negotiations with the hijacker, and it is unclear why he apparently abandoned his demand to go to another country and got off the plane.

There were no reports of injuries among the 182 passengers - including the hijacker - and 10 crew members, airport officials said. The airport was closed for more than an hour.

TV footage during the incident showed the plane parked at an airport terminal building, with an elevated walkway attached to the front hatch.

The pilot and copilot could be seen through the windshield, sitting still.

NHK reported that the hijacker was in the cockpit until he left, and passengers never knew about it.

"We had no hint of it," one unidentified passenger said. "We were just told to wait, presumably because it was crowded, and then were told about it after we got off the plane."

The hijacking was the second in recent years in Japan attempted with a small weapon.

In 1995 a bank employee hijacked a plane from Tokyo to the northern island of Hokkaido, using a screwdriver and a bag containing what he claimed was poison gas.

He held 364 people captive for 16 hours before he was arrested in a pre-dawn raid by security forces.

Hashimoto pledges reforms

TOKYO (AP) - Japan's prime minister said yesterday he will not let "fear of pain" get in the way of the broad government reforms he believes are the only way to breathe life into the sluggish economy.

In a wide-ranging policy speech opening a session of Parliament, Hashimoto touched on a territorial dispute with Russia, the hostage crisis in Peru, but he focused mainly on regulatory reform.

"Regulations on private-sector activities... are deeply rooted in Japanese society," he said, adding that scaling down an entrenched regulatory bureaucracy will not be painless. But to lessen or postpone the progress of reform out of a fear of pain will not be allowed," he said.

Record-breaking balloon flight ends in India

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Steve Fossett landed in India yesterday, ending his attempt to make man's first nonstop trip around the world in a balloon but capturing records for time and distance in a six-day, 16,000-km adventure.

Fossett landed 105 km north of Varanasi at 2:40 a.m. Indian air traffic control officials told his control headquarters in Chicago.

Beyond the fact that he was on the ground and safe - and had already received social invitations from the Bengali government and the United States ambassador to India - his back-up crew had no immediate information on precisely where he put down.

But they were celebrating the records he set and Bo Kemper, project manager for the 52-year-old

Colorado-based commodities broker, said he believed Fossett would make another bid for the record next year.

During the day on Sunday, Fossett battled fatigue and thunderstorms in the final stages of a journey cut short by a lack of fuel. The Libyan government's refusal to let him cross over that country forced him into a detour that cost both time and fuel.

He was later granted permission to use Libyan airspace but the damage had already been done.

Though the balloon still had about three days' worth of fuel, there was not enough to attempt crossing the Pacific Ocean. The expedition had predicted last Friday that Fossett would likely have to end his trip somewhere in

India. Fossett, who began his journey last Monday night in St. Louis, Missouri, broke the record for continuous manned balloon flight - six days and 16 minutes - not long before he touched down in India.

The endurance record was set in 1981 by Americans Ben Abruzzo and Troy Bradley.

Last Friday, Fossett broke the record for balloon distance, one he had set himself, when he passed 8,747 km over Algeria. He set the earlier mark on a voyage from South Korea to Canada.

In all, Fossett's 45 metre double-skinned balloon travelled in excess of 16,000 km, riding swift winter jet streams in the Northern Hemisphere.

New Austrian chancellor won't speak before inauguration

VIENNA (Reuters) - Austria's chancellor-designate Viktor Klima broke his silence yesterday for the first time since the resignation of chancellor Franz Vranitzky but left the nation in the dark on his plans for the future.

Klima, who has shunned the media spotlight since outgoing chancellor Franz Vranitzky resigned on Saturday after nearly 11 years in power, declined to make any comment on his promotion as Austria's eighth chancellor since 1945 and leader of the dominant Social Democratic Party.

"I will only speak once I am officially chancellor," Klima told Austrian news agency APA after playing a weekend game of hide-and-seek with the press.

Klima, 49, who Vranitzky said had been reluctant to succeed him, told APA he was only entitled to make any comment on his current duties. He is still technically finance minister.

President Thomas Klestil asked Vranitzky to stay on as acting chancellor until Klima had been officially sworn in, probably some time later this week.

But Klima's silence has surprised the Austrian and

foreign media, who expected him at least to acknowledge publicly what many politicians would regard as the highest honor.

Vranitzky said he had to persuade Klima to take over.

"He said he had no intention to take this job, but I convinced him my plans were better in the medium to long term," Vranitzky said on Saturday after catching the nation off-guard by announcing he was stepping down.

Austrian markets started stronger yesterday as Klima's appointment but analysts said the vacancy at the treasury may prove more difficult to fill.

"Admittedly, one does not normally associate resignations with stability but there is no doubt that this particular change will contribute to stability in Austria," said Roland Neuwirth, an analyst with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in Vienna.

Investors and analysts credited Klima with negotiating a tough two-year budget with the conservative People's Party and laying the groundwork for Austrian participation in a single European currency.

Yeltsin leaving hospital

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin was due to leave Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital last night and continue his treatment at a residence outside Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said.

The in-patient stage of Boris Nikolayevich's treatment for double pneumonia is finishing today and the president is transferring to the Gorky-9 residence near Moscow where his treatment will

continue," Yastrzhembsky told a news briefing.

Yeltsin, who turns 66 on February 1, has been in hospital with pneumonia since January 8.

He has spent only a handful of days in the Kremlin since he was re-elected for a second term of office last July and Yastrzhembsky said there was no point in expecting Yeltsin to rush back to his Kremlin office.

He said he did not know what

precise time Yeltsin would leave hospital and had no new details about the president's health.

Yeltsin, who has lately been working on documents for up to four hours each day, had spoken to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by telephone yesterday.

The two men would probably hold their regular weekly meeting today, Yastrzhembsky said.

Lawyer: Argentina negotiated to allow in Nazis

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - A lawyer for a former SS officer facing a war crimes trial has said Argentina gave 2,000 blank passports and 8,000 other identification papers to Nazis who fled Germany at the end of the Second World War, the private DyN news agency reported yesterday.

The agency quoted Pedro Bianchi as telling local media near his home in Bariloche that he worked as a lawyer in the Foreign Ministry from 1945 to 1947.

Neither Bianchi nor government officials could be reached for comment on Sunday to confirm the report, and DyN did not identify the media source of the report.

DyN said former President Juan Domingo Peron, founder of the Peronist movement, had decided to give refuge to Nazis.

"In 1945 the government negotiated the supply of documentation to Germany that allowed the entry of Nazis in the country," Bianchi was quoted as saying, estimating that "about 2,000 blank passports and

8,000 identification papers of the same condition were distributed."

"Under this scheme only about 2,000 Nazis entered Argentina, many received the identification papers but they settled down in other countries such as Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay."

Bianchi has been a lawyer to Erich Priebke, accused of complicity in multiple murders for his acknowledged participation in the Argentine Caves massacre south of Rome in March 1944, when 335 men and boys were shot to death in reprisal for a partisan bomb attack.

The trial of Priebke, 83, in Rome ended in uproar in August when the court found him guilty but no longer liable for punishment. A new trial was ordered.

Under Peron, an admirer of Italian fascist ruler Benito Mussolini, Argentina became a haven for war criminals such as Hitler confidante Martin Bormann, and Auschwitz medical monster Josef Mengele.

Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael - Zionism With Roots

Tu B'Shvat, 5757

Tour and plant

COME TOUR AND PLANT ON THURSDAY, TU BISHVAT, 23/1/97

FROM JERUSALEM

Departure: 8 a.m. from KKL-JNF Head Office, 48 King George St. Route: Via Sotaf (Mt. Etam Lookout), Ramat Raziel, Mary's Forest, KKL Nursery at Eshtool, British Park and Masua Lookout, Beit Guvin National Park and Tel Maresha caves. Plantings: Beit Guvin. Expected return: 6 p.m.

Central Planting Ceremonies

TUESDAY, 13 SHEVAT, 21.1.97

9:15 a.m. (by invitation only): Kinyat Anavim - Beit Nekofa: Knesset anniversary ceremony, restoration of forest burned last summer. In the presence of Knesset Speaker, MK Dan Tichon; JNF World Chairman, Moshe Rivlin; MKs and Knesset staff.

12 a.m. (by invitation only): KKL Park Jerusalem 3000: In the presence of Mayor, MK Ehud Olmert and JNF World Chairman, Moshe Rivlin.

9 a.m. - 12 a.m.: Ahivud Forest: In the presence of Mateh Asher Regional Council Head, Yehuda Shoval and JNF Board Member, Haim Sheter.

WEDNESDAY, 14 SHEVAT, 22.1.97

9 a.m.: Children's Forest-Arad: In the presence of Mayor Betzalel Tabib and JNF Board Member, Menahem Leibowitz.

Stop, Plant and Tour

KKL-JNF INVITES YOU, THE DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS ON ISRAEL'S ROADS ON TU BISHVAT, TO PLANT A TREE BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 4 P.M. AT THE FOLLOWING SITES:

IN THE NORTH:
HaShomrim Junction, Tivon-Nahajal Highway.

IN THE CENTER:
HaPortzim Monument Recreation Area, Jerusalem-Tel-Aviv Highway (opposite Shoeva).

IN THE SOUTH:
Lehavim Junction, Beit Kama-Beersheba Highway.

In cooperation with Israel Radio Reshet Gimme!

FROM HAIFA:

Departure: 8 a.m. from Beit HaKranot Square, 16 Herzl St. Route: plantings at HaShomrim Junction, on to Jezzeel Valley through Meggido Junction and Mt. Gilboa, Scenic Road from Nufit via Mt. Barkan to Meirav, Sela Turmat and Meirav Reservoir, on to Ganei Huga water park and Naharayim (a "visit" to Jordan without a visa). Expected return: 6 p.m.

FROM BEERSHEBA:

Departure: 8 a.m. from KKL-JNF Offices, 112 HaHistadrut St. Route: KKL Nursery at Gilat, on to Eshtool Park, old synagogue at Nitrim, via Besor Scenic Route, Besor suspension bridge, Mizpeh Gevulat. Planting ceremony of Nir Am Reservoir. Expected return: 5 p.m.

FROM HAIFA:

Excursion cost: NIS 25 per person. Cost includes: bus, guide, entry to sites and planting. Participants are advised to bring their own food and drink. Registration and payment at KKL-JNF offices in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Beersheba (at above addresses) or by mail, or register by phoning 177-022-2194. Sunday to Thursday, 19-23.1.97 from 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., and pay on day of excursion.

FRIDAY, 16 SHEVAT, 24.1.96

8 a.m. - 10 a.m.: Elat Forest: In the presence of Elat Mayor, Gabi Kadosh and JNF Deputy Chairman, Chaim Cohen.

10 a.m.: Yokne'am: In the presence of Yokne'am Local Council Head, Shimon Alfassi and former JNF Co-Chairman, Mordechai Dayan.

SUNDAY, 18 SHEVAT, 26.1.97

11 a.m.: Beit Guvin: In the presence of Absorption Minister, Yuli Edelstein; JNF Board Member, Yehiel Leket and Director, Central Office of Information, Doron Shohat. With the participation of new immigrants.

THE SCOPE AND SITE OF PLANTINGS WILL DEPEND ON AMOUNT OF RAINFALL BY THEN.

REHABILITATES AND REVIVES ISRAEL'S RIVERS.

HAS PLANTED 200 MILLION TREES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THIS YEAR IT WILL PLANT SOME 3 MILLION SAPLINGS ON SOME 25,000 DUNAMS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

HAS GARNISHED SOME 6,000 KM. OF FOREST AND OTHER ROADS.

TENDS 400 THOUSAND DUNAMS OF NATURAL WOODLANDS.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Ramatana, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9577. CIRCULATION—02-531-5610, Fax 02-538-9017. ADVERTISING—02-531-5608,
02-531-5637-40 Fax 02-538-8408. TEL AVIV: 3 Rebov Hamasger, POB 25398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277.
HAIFA: 20 Nardana, Hader Hasmager, Telephone 04-8522166. Published daily except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine
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1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN
INTERNET EDITION: <http://www.jpost.co.il> General E-mail: jpost@jpost.co.il Editorial E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il
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Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON

Christopher's legacy

THE second inauguration of President Bill Clinton was celebrated yesterday with all the pomp and circumstance befitting the most prosperous and powerful nation on earth. American inaugurations tend to be unifying events that deliberately seek to heal whatever divisions were highlighted in the elections that preceded them. Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address — "with malice toward none, with charity for all" — was the classic of this genre, but often it is back to politics as usual within a month or two.

In Clinton's case, the bid for bipartisanship is probably more sincere than most — in his reelection campaign he positioned himself firmly in the center, between his own party in Congress and that body's Republican majority. Both parties learned from the bitter fight over the budget during his first term that the public wanted them to work together and get things done. Clinton's pledge to combat "petty bickering" to fulfill America's "common destiny" signals his desire to tap this popular sentiment.

If domestic policy is becoming more conciliatory, Clinton's foreign policy is already characterized by its low-key approach, best symbolized by the taciturn but dogged outgoing Secretary of State Warren Christopher. It remains to be seen whether America's foreign policy will change with the more confrontational style of Secretary-designate Madeleine Albright. What can already be said is that Christopher's unflappability may have brought unappreciated dividends in the sticky struggle for peace in the Middle East.

Christopher arrived on the scene with low expectations. His lawyerly demeanor was not thought of as particularly suited to the Middle Eastern souk and his past, as president Jimmy Carter's former deputy secretary of state, did not bode well. The Carter Administration was, if anything, thought of as unsuccessful in foreign policy, and despite the Camp David Accords, not particularly friendly to Israel.

Although it might be said that anyone taking over after the stormy relations between president Bush, secretary Baker and prime minister Shamir, and moving into the era of Clinton and prime minister Rabin, was bound to enjoy smoother sailing, Christopher still deserves substantial credit for replacing the previous administration's penchant for playing hardball with Israel with a different approach.

Christopher, even under strained circumstances, would never have pulled Baker's stunt of reading out, before a Congressional committee, the White House phone number for Shamir to call when he is ready for peace.

Christopher really believed something that the US had long paid lip-service to but had rarely acted upon: That the key is to get the parties to talk to each other, and for that to happen the US must take a step back.

Christopher realized that he must resist the temptation to heed the conventional wisdom —

and his own bureaucracy — and pressure Israel. He knew that the more the US was seen as willing to pressure Israel, the less reason the Arab parties have to negotiate with Israel directly rather than through the United States.

It is certainly arguable that if the US had not taken such a hands-off approach, the Oslo Accords might never have been reached, and the peace treaty with Jordan might not have been achieved. Both were negotiated directly between the parties, and both surprised the Americans with their comprehensiveness and the speed in which seemingly impossible outs had been cracked.

Christopher was never an effusive sort, but he deserves to be considered by Israelis as one of the most sympathetic to their cause; in the same league as another surprising friend, George Shultz. If Christopher is to be faulted, it is for not going even further in bucking the conventional wisdom, and ratcheting up the pressure on Syria to negotiate in earnest with Israel.

Evero after Christopher made two dozen trips to Damascus, and allowed himself to be humiliated in long waits for the privilege of meeting with President Hafez Assad, Syria shows little evidence of acting upon its supposedly strategic decision for peace. Christopher's unwillingness to pressure Israel was effective in bringing the Palestinians and Jordanians to the table, but with Assad it clearly was not enough to produce serious results. And yet Christopher never would let himself come to the conclusion that his Syrian policy needed some sticks in the mix: some disconcertive for Assad to simply wait for the US to break down and pressure Israel.

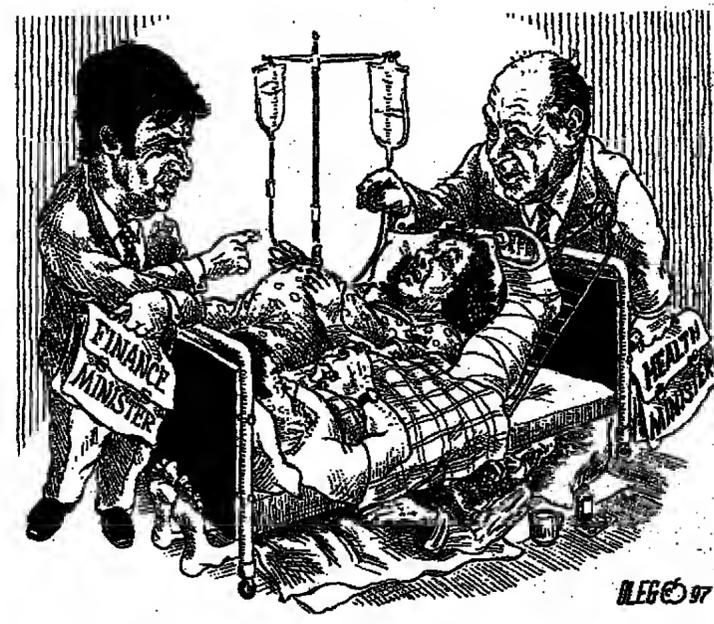
It is up to his successor, Secretary Albright, to open a new page in the American approach towards Syria. The carrots-only policy has failed, and is even less likely to succeed given the new political landscape in Israel.

Now, more than ever since the Madrid Conference, Assad may be under the illusion that he can simply sit back and wait for the US to pressure Israel.

Right now, Israel's position is that it will not come down from the Golan Heights, but that everything (including that position) is negotiable. The Syrian position, that Israel must commit to a withdrawal before negotiations begin, amounts to a categorical refusal to negotiate. It is time for the Americans to say so politely but clearly.

Christopher was a successful secretary of state in this region largely because he resisted an unfortunate American tendency to be more critical of friends like Israel than troublemaking regimes like Syria.

Secretary Albright could be even more successful if she learns from Christopher's strategy towards friends, while toughening the US approach toward isolated anarchistic despots who have taken advantage of American patience for too long.



IBA plays fast and loose

It took less than a week for the Israel Broadcasting Authority to trim NIS 20m. off its original NIS 670m. 1997 budget proposal. This 3 percent cut was forced upon the IBA by the government, which initially rejected the first budget.

Could the budget have been reduced further? Underlying this question is a deeper one: Does the IBA presume that, as a public body, it can forever hide its organizational, administrative and financial failures from the public?

Realizing that the IBA budget proposal was yet another symptom of the "sick man" syndrome, Israel's Media Watch decided to lobby against its approval.

It suggested that upwards of NIS 50m. could be cut, and also highlighted endemic management problems which, in addition to other longstanding difficulties, indicate that the budget has long been inflated owing to poor executive leadership.

IMW's investigations pointed to a system of remuneration that encourages employees to give less than their best; we suggested reforming the current salary structure, which often works against employees' best interests.

Two major government-commissioned reports, the Livi Committee in 1993 and the Ti'm Consultation Company in 1995, noted that overtime played too great a role in IBA workers' salaries, and basic pay too meager a role. This was not only unfair to the workers, but also to the authority itself and, ultimately, to the public. The resultant featherbedding and "creative dead weight" only exacerbated the IBA's financial situation.

There is a dearth of management ability in the authority, on the one hand, while on the other, there is a lack of cooperation and friction between departments. Needless duplication is a shameful waste of both human and technological resources.

YISRAEL MEDAD

In 1995, the Treasury agreed to fund the IBA to the tune of NIS 72m. over three years. In return, the IBA committed itself to early retirement for 180 employees. But after two years, having received 90 percent of the grant, it had reduced its manpower by only 65 percent.

Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's

Not surprisingly, IBA's budget woes have not been discussed in depth on Israel's public radio or television

Office, justifiably prevented further allocation of the grant, since the IBA had not kept its part of the deal. This year it has promised to retire 160 employees. Does anyone believe it? The Ti'm report notes, not surprisingly, that "despite the professional knowledge and the awareness of work relations, two matters are an obstacle to [IBA director-general] Mordechai Kirschenbaum: lack of administrative experience and training, and the pressures of his fellow workers."

The report was put on Kirschenbaum's desk a year ago. But neither he nor the IBA have yet publicized their official response.

Even without naming names — which the IBA does gleefully with everyone else's salary details — one cannot, for example, isolate the 20 highest IBA salaries.

Why must the Jerusalem municipality publicize its salaries but the IBA be exempt?

MK Benny Elon elicited from Kirschenbaum (Ma'ariv, October 30, 1996), that Mabab newscaster Haim Yavin gets paid between \$500-\$1,000 per Mabab show. Does Yavin receive extra funds for other editing jobs or the special documentary films he produces?

How much does Tommy Lapid, former IBA director-general, receive for his personal opinion transmission on Israel Radio every Friday and for his Popolitika appearances?

The IBA isn't the Second Broadcasting Authority. It is not commercial. Every TV set owner, whether he watches Channels 1, 2 or cable, is forced to pay the fee that exclusively funds the IBA.

Since the authority is a public-broadcasting system, the question of high salaries is important. If it wants to be allowed to sink its hands into the public's pockets, the public has the right — indeed, duty — to alter IBA operations.

Lieberman took it upon himself to put the IBA's house in order. Why was he vilified for it? Wasn't he, unlike Kirschenbaum, doing his job?

The IBA has betrayed the public trust. It has not come up with a serious long-term proposal for streamlining. It has not eliminated duplications, or encouraged cooperation between TV and radio. It is in desperate need of a major personnel, organizational and financial overhaul.

The Knesset Finance Committee met again yesterday to discuss the IBA's budget. While approving the budget meanwhile, it was with the stipulation that it be reviewed by the committee in three months' time.

This has nothing to do with playing politics with the IBA. It has everything to do with stopping the IBA from playing around with the public's money.

The writer directs Israel's Media Watch.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NAZI MEDICAL CRIMES

Sir, — I refer to Avi Beker's expose of the awakening from the collective amnesia on issues relating to the persecution of the Jews during World War II and the debate in Germany over Daniel Goldhagen's book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners* (January 3). Your readers may be interested to know that *The British Medical Journal* of December 7 devoted the major part of the publication to issues raised by the Nuremberg trials of doctors which began 50 years ago in December 1946; and the participation of German physicians in atrocities.

In a nine-page article, Professor Hanauka-Abel (Cornell University Medical College) states that the degeneration of the German medical profession was not a "slippery slope" or "sudden subversion." Based on documents published in 1933 in German medical journals, doctors eagerly supported Hitler's plans for Jews and non-Aryans. By 1937, the "Nazis had to curb the enthusiasm of zealous doctors" for enforced eugenic sterilization.

Professor Seideman (Toronto

University) writes that, of all German occupational groups, physicians had the largest representation in the Nazi party. He refers to leading scientists; Professor Dr. Hallervorden who collected the brains of victims of the euthanasia program for his neuropathological collection; Dr. Pernkopf who "acquired" specimens for his anatomy institute and was the founding editor of a well-known textbook of anatomy which is still published and includes two paintings with Nazi symbols. Some of the subjects depicted may have been Nazi victims. These and others such as Professor Verschuer, expert on twin studies and the principal investigator in experiments for Dr. Mengele, were never prosecuted.

The ambivalent British medical attitude to Nazi medical crimes and human experiments is described by Dr. Weindlog (University of Oxford), and raises serious questions of ethical principles.

DR. JEAN KLOOS-FISHMAN

Beersheba.

QUICK ACTION

Sir, — Like most sane Israelis, I was most distraught by Noam Friedman's dastardly shooting in Hebron. He obviously is a very disturbed young man who should never have been accepted into the IDF.

Properly, it was quickly condemned by the prime minister and hopefully it will not cause any political fallout. Regrettably, we have our misguided extremists and terrorists just as the Palestinians do. The difference is that when one of ours commits an atrocity, it is quickly and publicly censured and the guilty party is arrested, tried and punished after due process. In the past, no such speedy disapproval by the Palestinian leadership was manifested, nor were the perpetrators quickly apprehended, tried and punished.

Fortunately in this case, thanks to one very cool, quick-thinking officer, the situation did not explode into a worse calamity. Considering that Hebron these days is like a tinderbox, ready to explode with the any spark, the quick and proper actions taken by Lt. Avi Buskila make him the hero.

DAVID FROELICH

Rehovot.

ISRAELI ARTISTS

Sir, — What a pleasure to finally read in *Time Out* articles on Israeli artists. As an English newspaper reader who also reads Hebrew newspapers, I always felt that your magazine only wrote about classical music, theater, etc. and ignored Israeli culture. Recently, articles about Yehuda Poliker and Meir Bani made me and my friends feel much more connected to the Israeli rock scene.

I would love to read more CD reviews about the rock scene.

JOY GRUENWALD

Tel Aviv.

THE LEBANESE MORASS

Sir, — Another youngster killed in Lebanon. How long can we allow these daily sacrifices? Lebanon is not our country and the "security zone" has been an anachronism for many years. As we have learned over and over again, it does not assure security for areas beyond the zone and offers no safe haven for our soldiers within the zone.

Some argue that we must retaliate and bomb those villages from which our boys are attacked. We've seen that movie before. The scenes are repeated over and over again. Long lines of men, women and children packed, pushed and prodded from their

villages as the world media projects onto the screens of CNN the wicked Israelis who bomb innocent civilians. We achieve nothing and the vicious cycle is perpetuated.

Let us protect our country from within our borders and deny Syria its war games on another's territory. By all means, let us make fair and just arrangements for these in Southern Lebanon who have fought alongside us for many years, but make it clear that we will offer up no more sons in a silver platter.

HONEY STOLLMAN

Jerusalem.

A blessed lack of conflict

JEREMY MAISSEL

by religious doctrine.

This newly-discovered genetic link back to Aaron, brother of Moses, as our priests' direct ancestor blows away the clouds of legend, outlining my childhood image of the High Priest (com-

As an observant Jew, I am really thrilled when science confirms religious belief

plete with long beard, flowing robes, breastplate and miter) with the clear lines of reality.

BUT IF you don't happen to have your chromosome-testing kit on you, or your subject isn't too keen on giving you a tissue sample, there are other, less scientific, indications of Jewish priesthood.

The surname Cohen is the most obvious, with Cohn, Kahn, Cahane and — in Slavic countries where there was no "h" sound — Kogen and Kagan as variants.

The name Barkan contains the prefix *bar* meaning son, hence "son of a Kohen." To these you can add the names with patronymic (father-derived) suffixes — Kaganoff, Kohansky etc.

There are other, more subtle, holy surnames. Katz is an acronym for *kohen tzadik* (righteous priest). The Tel Aviv street

called *Mazeh* is an acronym for *Mizera Aharon Hakohen*, "from the seed of Aaron the priest."

Another acronym is the name Azouli, spelling out in initials a biblical verse dealing with the marital restrictions on priests.

The most esoteric acronym is Cashdan or Kasdan, which spells out, in Aramaic, *Kohanin shilshu derahmana nihnu*, meaning "Priests are the emissaries of the Merciful One."

In yet another group the names describe priestly activities. Broch, from the word *bracha*, suggests the priest's duty to bless the people. The surnames Duchan, Duchan and Duchin refer to the platform on which the priests stand.

And the name Adler ("eagle" in German), adopted by some Kohanim, compares the outstretched arms of the kohen as he intones the priestly blessing to the wings of that noble bird.

In the last century, when fixed surnames were forced on Jews to enable the levying of more taxes, authorities occasionally frowned on Hebrewisms and insisted on Germanic forms. This produced a bizarre collection of hybrids like Aronstein, Aronstam, Katzmann, Katzenstein, Cohnheim and Cohnstein.

If you fancy neither genetic research nor onomastics (the study of names) but still want to know if a Jew is a priest, you could try asking him.

Or, better still, ask him what his grandfather was.

The writer, a religious educator, is a member of Kibbutz Alumim.

Small is big

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

For most Americans, libertarianism is a fringe political tendency with a narrow premise and a narrow ambition. The understood premise is that individual liberty is the ultimate political good, all else be damned. And the ambition, as seen in the popular imagination, is to produce a race of rugged individualists, each living in a mountaintop cabin with a barbed wire fence and a "No Trespassing" sign outside.

That's how most Americans see libertarianism. But they won't after reading Charles Murray's splendid new book *What It Means to Be a Libertarian: A Personal Interpretation*.

This is because the book is not just sharply written and uncommonly clear, but also quite unusual.

Murray's political ideal is not a society of discrete, atomized, if rugged, individualists living in a castle with a moat. It is a society where community and family, charity and volunteerism, good works and social intercourse of every kind flourish.

His originality lies in arguing that the way to get to this communal end is by libertarian means; that you produce social conscience and promote compassion not by mandates, regulation and bureaucracy, as the welfare state has been trying to do for 60 years, but by setting people free.

That belief rests largely on a theory of displacement: that, when government stepped in to take over all the caring functions that for generations had been the province of family and community and charities and churches, it did not add to the welfare of those it was helping. It was merely substituting.

And by substituting the bureaucrat downtown for the churches,

Centralized compassion — it doesn't work

clubs and charities, it robbed these traditional caring institutions of their vocation and vitality.

"One example," he writes, is found in the extensive social insurance functions served by fraternal and craft organizations. They virtually disappeared with the advent of Social Security. Another example lies in the web of parental pressures and social stigma that kept illegitimacy rare, combined with the private charitable and adoption services that coped with the residual problem.

Intricate, informal, but effective, this civil system could not withstand the proliferation of welfare benefits for single mothers. Government displaces but cannot replace."

Murray is the kind of libertarian who believes it takes a village to raise a child. His complaint is that government has decimated the village. His solution is to pare away government and let the village grow back.

But will it? Can it? Perhaps 60 years of centralized compassion has so destroyed the habits of community that we've forgotten. Perhaps when government leaves the scene the poor and destitute will indeed, as liberals warn, be abandoned.

Will they? We don't know. But the question will be tested as US society moves inexorably toward smaller government.

And that movement will be immeasurably helped along by a book like Murray's that sets out the premises of limited government with an honesty and forthrightness that even liberal critics are bound to admire.

LEST I scare off readers, let me quickly note that this book is about practical politics. It contains scores of suggestions, all pointed, some radical, for shrinking government back to the very limited role envisioned by the Founders.

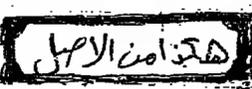
In the section on regulation Murray comes up with an ingenious idea: that government allow any business any product, any service to be marketed without any regulation whatsoever, so long as it is stamped "unregulated."

Thus, without abolishing a single regulation, Murray proposes the ultimate challenge to the regulatory state: competition. He is serene in the belief that unregulation will win out.

Even if you don't believe it, you will profit from picking up this challenge to the nanny state. You won't find a more provocative or enjoyable political volume anywhere.

© Washington Post Writers Group

Shak become
as hand together rape victims
Russian society by biting
BY EPPSTEIN



Shakespeare becomes relevant

By HELEN KAYE

Ample Maria (Odella Matalon) and yet more ample Sir Toby (Roni Blitz) emerge from the billows and settle down for a little serious sunbathing. She's armed with curve-around shades and sun-block. He has a knotted handkerchief on his head and the legs of his pants are rolled up. You can almost smell the mangal.

Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* may be set in the imaginary coastal land of Illyria, but the Cameri production, which opened Saturday, is deliberately Israeli," says director Micki Gurevitch. "Theater has to be in the present. Israelis sit in the audience and the play has to be about them, to communicate with them."

Not that Gurevitch has had to manipulate the play to get what he wants, because "when you deal with Shakespeare, you deal with yourself. He finds so many ways to express life that you can hardly realize them all."

That's why every few years contemporary theater reinvents the wheel, and still discovers that this playwright who lived 400 years

ago talks about what it means to be human better than anyone else.

Shakespearean audiences adored identical-twins misapp. *Comedy of Errors* has two sets. *Twelfth Night* has only one, Viola (Limor Goldstein) and Sebastian (Dudu Niv). Their boat is wrecked off Illyria and, though each believes the other dead, both are saved. Viola dresses up as a boy, takes service with Duke Orsino (Eviatar Lazar), and promptly falls in love with him. He's in love with Olivia (Osnat Fishman), who doesn't want him, but falls head over heels with Viola-as-Cesario.

Matters are further complicated when Maria and Toby trick Olivia's stuffy steward Malvolio (Yoram Hattab) into believing that his mistress loves him. Of course it all comes right in the end, but not for everybody.

"I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you," howls Malvolio when he learns how Toby and Maria have tricked him.

Twelfth Night belongs to what Shakespeare scholar Jan Kott called the playwright's "bitter Arcadia" or where the sunny uplands of broad comedy are shadowed by bitter disillusion.



Olivia (Osnat Fishman, left) and Viola (Limor Goldstein) get familiar in 'Twelfth Night.'

THEATER REVIEW

A tempestuous Caliban

By NAOMI DOUDAI

The history of Shakespearean criticism over the past few centuries includes an amazing diversity of *Tempest* interpretations.

In the year Peter Brook presented his controversial concept in a hewed-out quarry at the Avignon Festival, I saw at least four alternative *Tempests* played in the same town within the same three weeks.

This British group, in its attempt at novelty, has come up with what is perhaps the most reductive of them all.

Despite the director's emphasis on the father-child concept and other high-sounding sentiments, the main consideration dominating this production seems to have been to strip it down to the bare bones of the text.

As an economic measure it fits the spartan standards of the Fringe. As an artistic gimmick, however, it takes a heavy toll of play and play-

ers. A spectacular lack of eye-taking scenery, costume, or props, puts all the onus on the actors. But not more than half of them have what it takes to meet so mighty a challenge. Especially not on a stage with the immense dimensions of

Willis's Caliban, a virtuosic performance which with Rachel Sanders's hardly ethereal but musically and historically precious Ariel, injects pure Welsh passion into an often too pedestrian production.

Ged McKenna as Trinculo the jester, and Andrew French as Stephano the drunken butler, bring life to the stage with their hilarious antics and elegant pantomime in some of the most delightful clowning interludes of any Shakespearean production. On a soberer, more conventional note is Peter Kelly's Gonzalo, "the honest old Councillor," here played with heart-warming traditional panache.

These five striking performances are notable in an Israeli context because they illustrate skills and powers of a kind that are not to be found on our stages. The rest should appear to say stuff and nonsense to all that.

Fortunately it is saved from outright insubordination by five splendid performances. Outstanding is Richard

THE TEMPEST

By William Shakespeare. Direction, Nancy Meckler. Design, Sophie Jump. Staged Experience Theatre (SE) sponsored by the Cameri Theater, Tel Aviv. At the Jerusalem Sherover. Hebrew title, *Hase'ara*.

Stars band together for rape victims

By EMILY HAUSER

Any concert featuring Rita, Gidi Gov, Yehuda Poliker and Zehava Ben promises to be a gala event. These powerhouse come together at Tel Aviv's Habimah on Wednesday in a benefit for the country's rape-crisis centers.

Gov, Poliker, Ben and Rita are part of a recent concerted effort to change society's attitudes, and open its pocketbook. Only 15% of the RCCs' budgets come from government sources; the rest is provided by fund-raising organizations and private donors. In 1996, the RCCs fell \$200,000 short.

The Tel Aviv center contacted radio and TV personality Meirav Michaeli a few months ago, asking that she help arrange a modest fund-raising effort. Michaeli used the country's best and brightest to get involved.

Today the campaign includes the likes of Sara Netanyahu, MK Yael Dayan, actress Yael Abecassis, journalist Irit Rabin, singer Margalit Tza'arani, children's entertainer Michal Yanai and playwright Anat Gov (yes, she's the wife of).

Bezeq is providing a new national hot line which will automatically direct calls to the closest RCC. From now on, there are only four digits to remember: 1202. (Male victims can call a men's line directly at (05) 685-0036.)

Gov feels it's important to volunteer to help people in need, but thinks the problem would be better solved by the authorities. "This shouldn't even be in the hands of society," he says. "But [the authorities] still act as if they're dealing with the problem out of the goodness of their hearts. It's at the bottom of the list."

"We want to move the country a few years ahead on the issue, to put [the issue of sexual assault] on the map," Anat Gov says. Her contribution to the campaign has included writing texts for television spots.

If you'd like to help out — and enjoy what promises to be a terrific evening of entertainment on the way — tickets to Wednesday's concert can only be bought by phone, on (03) 565-1565, and will not be available at the door. Prices are NIS 100 and NIS 250.

Madonna wins Golden Globe

Evita, the epic musical film starring pop star Madonna, led the list of winners at Sunday night's Golden Globe Awards.

The film won three of the awards presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, including best actress in a musical or comedy film for Madonna.

It also won the award for best musical or comedy motion picture as well as best original song in a film, "You Must Love Me," by British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyricist Tim Rice.

"I have been so incredibly blessed this last year. I have so much to be thankful for," Madonna



told the star-studded audience at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, referring to the birth of her baby and her role as Argentina's Eva Peron.

The *English Patient*, which led the Golden Globe field with nominations in seven categories, ended up winning only two awards — best dramatic picture and best original film score. Its stars, Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas, were passed over by Golden Globe voters in the best dramatic actor and actress categories, as was Juliette Binoche,



Karaszewski took the Golden Globe for best motion-picture screenplay for their work on the film.

Veteran actress Lauren Bacall won a Globe for best supporting actress in a movie for her role in *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, while the best supporting actor honor went to Edward Norton for *Primal Fear*. Tom Cruise picked up the Globe for best actor in a musical or comedy film for his role in *Jerry Maguire*.

In the dramatic film cate-

gory, Brenda Blethyn won best actress Globe for *Secrets & Lies* and best actor honors went to Geoffrey Rush in *Shine*.

Kolya, produced in the Czech Republic, was voted the best foreign-language film. In the television category, *The X-Files*, from the Fox network, and HBO's *Rasputin* shared the honors.

The *X-Files* took best dramatic TV series, best actress in a dramatic TV series award for Gillian Anderson and best actor in a dramatic TV series Globe for David Duchovny.

nominated for best supporting actress for her role in the wartime drama.

The best motion-picture director award went to Milos Forman for *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, the life story of the controversial publisher of *Hustler* magazine, starring Woody Harris in the title role. Scott Alexander and Larry

IN TUNE

Britain's answer to Nirvana

By DAVID BRIN

Bush is arguably the biggest British rock act in the US, towering over Oasis and other imports.

In 1994 debut, *Sixteen Stone*, a sonic assault of testosterone (one of its songs actually possesses that catchy title), shot out of nowhere to reach the top of the charts for most of 1995 and 1996. In the US, it was called the British equivalent



When Nico Began To Speak: an intelligent local band.

Razorblade Suitcase
BUSH
(Hed Artzi)

When Nico Began To Speak
WHEN NICO BEGAN TO SPEAK
TO SPEAK
(NMC)

of Nirvana and Pearl Jam — a thinking man's hard rock.

In fact, in moments of band's follow-up *Razorblade Suitcase*, the similarity between the late Kurt Cobain and the writing and singing style... of... Bush... leader... Gavin Rossdale is, sometimes eerie.

Unfortunately for Bush, those moments are the best things about the record. Songs like "Greed Fly" and "Straight No Chaser" could easily be mistaken for the defunct Seattle trio, right down to the vocal nuances.

However, on the rest of the material, an excess of bombastic self-importance and what Woody Allen once described as "heaviosity" abounds. But for the millions who bought the debut, that won't matter. As long as there are 16-year-old white males around, this kind of music will be popular.

ONE OF the more impressive local debuts of recent memory, When Nico Began To Speak, led by singer/songwriter Patrick Segev, picked up where Friends of Natasha left off: cohesive, intelligent pop built around strong melodies and

high musical standards. But there's not much excitement displayed.

Segev's interpretation of Yonatan Gefen's "Love Song" bears a strong Neil Young *Harvest*-era influence, and his original material displays a knack for memorable choruses.

What's lacking, however, is the

youthful enthusiasm that a debut should possess. Like most Israeli pop, there are few chances taken with the arrangements rarely stretching out of standard slow tempos.

...A little more adventurousness to go along with the decent material would suit this band well.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	8	10	OST	EVITA
#2	4	6	NO DOUBT	TRAGIC KINGDOM
#3	5	7	EHUD BANAI	OD MEAT
#4	2	10	SPACE GIRLS	SPACE
#5	7	4	V/A	BEST OF THE BEST '96
#6	6	21	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#7	3	9	V/A	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
#8	9	43	RITA	COLLECTION
#9	16	8	ENIGMA	LE ROI EST MORT
#10	1	9	TONI BRAXTON	SECRETS
#11	12	37	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#12	19	2	NOSEI HAMIGBAAT	NOSEI HAMIGBAAT
#13	22	44	SHLOMO ARTZI	SHINAIM
#14	NEW!	1	MIKA KARNI	MIKA KARNI
#15	25	3	STEVIE WONDER	SONG REVIEW

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

OPERA REVIEW

Russian society exposed by biting satire

By URY EPPSTEIN

In Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk*, performed by the Kirov Opera from St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater, and conducted by Valery Gergiev, the tragic heroine is the murderer. Yet she arouses sympathy and compassion.

This is a biting social satire, where even apparent comic relief, in the form of the drunkard, the police chief or the nihilist, only emphasize hopelessness. The emphasis is on the brutality and hypocrisy of a Russian father-in-law, and through him at the entire patriarchal family system, at the lack of conscience and egoism of a playboy-lover, at the corruption of the church and the police, and at the cruelty, dishonesty and narrow-mindedness of society as a whole.

All these characteristics are portrayed by the music with a poignancy which is accentuated by the superb handling of instrumental tone colors, highly suggestive vocal lines, and an uncanny inten-

sification of atmosphere. There is much irony in this music, but it is also emotionally expressive, profoundly depressing, and leads to explosive dramatic climaxes.

Kina Luskotova's soprano, which was both lyric and charged with tension, movingly represented the mentally tortured and emotionally starved Katerina. Bulat Minzhiliev's black bass convincingly expressed the evil of the family-tyrant Boris. Sergei Naïda's tenor splendidly personified the unscrupulous macho-lover. Bass Gregory Kavasev delivered a hilarious caricature of a village priest.

In a minor role, bass-baritone Vladimir Braun, as the police chief, provided a dignified Israeli contribution to the cast.

The Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion sounded brilliant under Gergiev's direction. And Georgy Zil'ber, ingenious in its simplicity, made the most of wooden, modular elements in many resoundful and changing combinations.

Tel Aviv Opera House, Jan. 13.

Three cheers for the cello

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Contrary to popular belief, Lynn Harrell does not consider the cello a distant cousin of the violin. "In ensemble playing the cello often functions as an inner voice. We cellists have a great variety of styles, much more than violinists. And frankly I have no problems taking a real back seat and provide the bass line when it's called for, but of course I love being a soloist as well."

The American-born cellist, who resides in London, admits that he does not spend much time "practicing with my cello. I practice more here. I love the atmosphere in Israel and I always try to do my best here."

Does that mean that music lovers outside Israel never get Harrell at his very best? "Well I suppose maybe there's some truth in that."

In his current series of concerts with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Harrell opted to play the Shostakovich second cello concerto. "Philosophically it's a greater work than the first, which is much more popular and indeed very powerful. The second, how-

ever, is an older person's philosophical wisdom, something like *King Lear* as compared to *Hamlet* or *Othello*.

"It's also a triumph for the human spirit, although only a philosophical triumph because its last pages deal with death. But as a taxi driver told me here earlier this week, one does not have to worry about death because you die only once."

Harrell wrote his own program notes for the concert because "I believe that instead of dates and details one should speak about the creative process of the performer."

And if the audience applauds and demands an encore Harrell might oblige with something "simple and lyrical like a Bach Saraband. After I take the audience into the dark resources of the human soul, the atmosphere should be changed so the encore will be light but obviously not frivolous."

Lynn Harrell plays Shostakovich's second cello concerto with the IPO tonight through Thursday in Tel Aviv and next Sunday through Tuesday in Haifa.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Big piano, small orchestra

In 1989 British pianist Benjamin Britten won first prize in the Arthur Schnitger International Master Piano competition in Tel Aviv. But returning to the same stage, which he earned his crown eight years ago, Britten's rendition of Beethoven's fourth piano concerto was loud and vulgar. His huge sound contrasted with the small (Israel Chamber) orchestra which accompanied him. In the second movement Britten tried to play somewhat more tenderly but his rendition lacked warmth.

And the ICO under Sidney Harth played without any sense of style or direction. A few months ago British pianist Imogen Cooper played Beethoven's third piano concerto with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and projected an identical loud, shouting, vulgar and insensitive sound and style. Is this how British pianists play these days?

Tel Aviv Museum, January 12
Michael Ajzenstadt

ic and emotionally exciting and the finale brought this great opus to a fitting conclusion in front of a far from full or enthusiastic audience. Which is a pity because such a performance — which fortunately was recorded for future release on disc — deserves a full house.

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, January 12
Michael Ajzenstadt

THE GRANDEUR of Jerusalem was intended to be conveyed by vast masses of sound in Penderecki's *Seven Gates of Jerusalem*. Its world premiere, performed by the Bavarian Radio and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Bavarian, Stuttgart and Leipzig Radio Choirs and soloists, and conducted by Lorin Maazel, took place as the Liturgical grand finale. To add to the impact, this huge apparatus was placed, in addition to the orchestras and percussion sets on the stage, also on three wings of the hall's balcony.

Penderecki distributed his abundant sonorities in innumerable imaginative combinations: solemn choruses, a-cappella as well as accompanied orchestral tutti and brass choirs. The unifying factor was a Latin biblical text, mostly Psalms.

Schubert's Mass in G major, conducted by Michael Glaser, was presented in all its loveliness as a curtain raiser.

International Convention Center, January 9.
Ury Eppstein

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BUSINESS

in brief

Major share of Czech chemical firm to be bought

Dead Sea Works and the Bromine Company, both subsidiaries of Israel Chemicals, intend to acquire 80 percent of a Czech firm engaged in pharmaceutical chemicals, said Uri Ben-Noon, president and CEO of Dead Sea at a managers conference Sunday. The acquisition price is estimated at \$20m. The factory is situated close to Prague.

The company's decision to invest in an overseas company is due to the government's decision to reduce benefits in the framework of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's investment incentive program, said Ben-Noon. An Israel Chemicals spokesperson refused to confirm or deny the report. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Medilene establishing pharmaceutical factory

Medilene has invested \$7 million in establishment of a pharmaceutical factory in Yokneam which will specialize in production of cream and paste-based medicines, many of which are currently imported into the country.

The new factory named Medibrands will manufacture products based on licenses and approvals received from international firms. The company intends to export 35% of its products within five years.

The company's sales are expected to reach \$2m. In the first year of operation and grow at a rate of 30% per year over the next five years, forecasts Stelo Robinso, general manager of Medilene. In five years the factory is expected to employ 100 people, mainly from the area.

The 4,300 sq.m. factory is situated on six dunams. Medilene, which is owned by the Medilene Group, was founded 13 years ago as a pharmaceutical and cosmetics importer. The company employs 50 people. Among others, the company imports Smith Kline products and ROC cosmetics. Medilene's sales turnover reached \$10m. in 1995. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Gaon won't run for president

Koor President and CEO Benjamin Gaon has rejected manufacturers request to run for president of the Manufacturers Association in the elections scheduled for June 1997. Gaon said he is not interested and does not have spare time for the position.

During the last few days, several senior industrialists have asked Gaon to consider the position, currently held by Dan Propper. The industrialists believe that Propper, who has served in the position for four years, should be replaced in order to improve the association's image.

The industrialists have also received negative responses from Dov Lautman, who served as president of the association for seven years and Michael Strauss, the manager of Strauss Dairies. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Cellcom asks Court to stop Miers network

Cellcom has appealed to the High Court of Justice to order the communications minister to halt Miers network phone service run by Motorola. Cellcom claims that the service, which gives companies unlimited radio-phone connections at a fixed monthly price, is in fact an unlicensed cellular phone service.

Motorola is a partner (with Bezeq) in Pclephone, Cellcom's competitor in cellular phone services. This creates "unfair competition," Cellcom charged, as Miers in effect is a "third" cellular phone service provider — without having been selected by a state tender board. *Judy Siegel*

Manufacturers to send delegation to Poland

Following the visit to Israel of Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the Manufacturers Association has been invited to send a delegation to Poland later this year. Trade volume between the states stands at \$80 million, a figure the Association says is too low.

Talks on a Free Trade agreement between the countries are expected to resume next month. *David Harris*

Young Israeli Arabs lean to sciences

If a career-preference survey conducted by the Hadassah Career Counselling Institute is correct, the next generation will see Israeli Arabs as scientists and Jews as businesspeople.

The sample of 785 young Jews and 3,781 Arabs found male Arab high school graduates are most interested in technology (27%) and the sciences (26%) with only 12% keen on going into business.

The most popular career choices among their Jewish counterparts were business (29%), technology (17%) and organization or administration (11%), with just 9% interested in the sciences.

Among female Arab high school graduates, the sciences were the most popular (28%). Their Jewish counterparts were mostly interested in the arts (27%), services (social work, psychology and stewardesses, 22%), business (16%) and sciences (12%). *Judy Siegel*

PM to invite world's top CEO's to Israel

By DAVID HARRIS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to invite some of the world's top businesspeople to visit Israel during 1997 to discuss expanding their interests in the country, according to a government source related to this effort.

The list of CEOs, chairpeople and presidents of companies in the US, Europe and Asia include Wall Street financier George Soros, Microsoft Corp. president Bill Gates, Itochu Corp. president and CEO Minoru Murofushi, Sara Lee Corp. chairman and CEO John Bryan, Lyonnaise des Eaux SA CEO Jerome Monod, Volkswagen AG CEO Ferdinand Piech, Siemens AG CEO Heinrich von Pixer, General Motors Corp. president and CEO John Smith, Perot Systems Corp. Morton Meyerson, and General Electric Co. chairman and CEO John Welch.

Netanyahu is already scheduled to meet Gates in Davos, Switzerland in a fortnight, dur-

ing the annual World Economic Forum. Murofushi will in all probability also be in Switzerland, as he is a WEF board member.

All those on Netanyahu's list already have interests in Israel.

Murofushi is perhaps the most surprising name on the list. Officially the Tokyo-based corporation has no interests here, but the company is known to operate in Israel under a different trading name. It is recognized as one of the world's top five general-trading firms, with interests in metals, minerals, textiles, machinery, foodstuffs, chemicals, wood, construction materials, satellite communications and commodities markets.

Soros, among other links to Israel including interests Geotek and Indigo, was part of the now aborted attempt to purchase Bank Hapoalim, alongside Claridge-Arison's and Goldman Sachs.

Gates's connections with Israel are mainly

through Microsoft Israel, but the company also appointed Israeli Moshe Duniya as its worldwide vice-president in October.

Sara Lee Corp., a worldwide manufacturer and marketer of consumer products, including packaged meats, bakery items, coffee and personal care items, last year formed a joint venture with Migdal Haemek-based Nilit for the manufacture of POY yarns.

French-based Lyonnaise des Eaux has water interests throughout the world, including working with Mekorot.

Vehicle manufacturer Volkswagen and the Dead Sea Works have launched a \$400 million magnesium production joint venture, which involves the largest-ever European investment in Israel.

Siemens, the world's sixth largest company, spent \$130 million on direct purchases from Israel over the last five years, and has had an office here for two years.

Dollar surges to 4-year-high against yen

By PETER GRIFFITHS

LONDON (Reuters) — The dollar broke through 118 yen for the first time in almost four years yesterday and vaulted important hurdles against the mark and Swiss franc.

The shekel, meanwhile, depreciated 0.5% against the dollar, settling at 3.287.

Financial bloodletting in Tokyo, where the Nikkei average fell 3.37 percent, weakened the Japanese currency and by late yesterday morning a robust dollar had broken above 118 yen, levels not seen since March 1993. It was later off its highs, but dealers said dollar sentiment was still firm and it could move higher in coming days.

The dollar also marched on the mark, breaking above 1.6260 to levels not seen since June 1994, as speculation increased of a possible German interest rate cut. It later slipped to around 1.6240.

"It's very well hid today — mainly on the back of mark selling against other European currencies. I suppose we'll see some correction, but it's just not a very good idea to sell dollars at the moment," said a trader at a US bank in London.

The dollar's strength across the board also took it to 1.4205 Swiss francs, its highest level against the currency since June 1994. It cooled somewhat in the afternoon.

The mark weakened against other European currencies. It fell to a 31-month low against the lira and continued to slide against the Norwegian crown.

"It will be a continuation of two themes. The US economy is growing well and it's a question of when, rather than whether, the Fed will raise rates," said IBI International chief analyst Keith Edmonds. "On the other side of the interest rate equation, the groundwork is being laid for a German interest rate cut."

Analysts said the dollar's rise was being checked somewhat by a partial holiday in the US for Martin Luther King Day. US stock exchanges and the New York Mercantile Exchange were operating normally.



Bonkers over bingo
Albanians rush to buy bingo tickets for half a dollar each in hope of quick money yesterday. As calm returned to the streets of Albania's capital yesterday after a big weekend demonstration by angry investors desperate to retrieve their life savings from crumbling get-rich-quick pyramid schemes, Albanians turned to another hope of easy money — television bingo. (Reuters)

Court cancels tariffs on imported ice cream

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Jerusalem District Court cancelled the tariffs yesterday on imported ice cream, ending the two-year legal battle between the importers of Haagen Daz ice cream and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

In 1995 importers Regent, who hold the license to market Haagen Daz here, filed an appeal against the Ministry of Trade, charging that tariff rates levied on imported ice cream were mainly influenced by pressure from local ice cream manufacturers, Tnuva and Strauss.

The appellants said the local manufacturers benefit from subsidies and are sold milk at controlled prices, at the expense of the Israeli consumer. In addition, they can import raw materials such as extra butterfat and milk powder at a discount. The company requested the court to lift the tariff on imported ice cream, presently set

at \$0.55 per kilo. At the time it was set at \$0.69 per kilo.

In her verdict, Judge Judith Zur criticized the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Tnuva and Strauss pointing out that the purpose of the tariff is solely intended to protect local manufacturers. She said the Ministry of Industry and Trade's decision to impose the levy is against basic rights of purchase and occupation.

"It seems that the fact that the import is of especially high quality ice cream, is in fact a positive incentive to encourage the quality of local manufacturers' ice cream," said Zur.

The court instructed the government, Tnuva and Strauss to cover for Haagen Daz's legal fees which amount to NIS 50,000.

"This is an overall victory and we are satisfied with the ruling," said Ori Yogeve, general manager of Omni Food Trademarks, which handled the suit on behalf of Regent.

Planners to vote today on Ben-Gurion 2000 1st stage

By EVELYN GORDON

The National Planning and Building Board is to vote today about the fate of the so-called Ben-Gurion 2000 plan, aimed at expanding Israel's key international airport.

Both Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy and the Knesset Economics Committee said yesterday the board should approve only the first stage of the Ben-Gurion Airport expansion plan, in line with the recommendations of the Swari Report.

Levy told the committee that he supported approving only the first stage at this time, because he does not think Ben-Gurion can or should be Israel's only international airport. It would be better to approve a limited expansion of Ben-Gurion and in the meantime begin work on a second international airport, he said.

"Even the first stage of the Ben-Gurion 2000 plan will take four or five years to complete, he noted.

Levy said the ministry is now awaiting the results of a tender for someone to prepare a master plan for the future of civil aviation in Israel. This master plan will include the location of a site for a second international airport, he said.

This new airport will probably have to be in the south, Levy continued, but Nevatim is out an

appropriate site, both because it is too far from the center of the country and because it would interfere with the army's needs.

Another possibility, Levy said, is that one of the army airports in the center of the country could be turned into a civilian airport. Levy said the ministry is discussing this idea with the army and the Defense Ministry now. Committee members said they also recommended approving only the first stage of Ben-Gurion 2000 at this time.

"If the National Planning and Building Board decides tomorrow [Tuesday] to approve the entire plan, this will bury all the alternatives," said committee chairman

Elie Goldschmidt (Labor). Motti Debi, managing director of the Airports Authority, said the authority supports the idea of a second international airport.



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German mark	2.0029	2.0383	1.96	2.07	2.0208
Pound sterling	5.4058	5.4681	5.31	5.47	5.4836
French franc	0.8339	0.8398	0.80	0.85	0.8167
Japanese yen (100)	2.7397	2.8043	2.71	2.85	2.7876
Dutch florin	1.7829	1.8114	1.75	1.84	1.7988
Swiss franc	2.2850	2.3361	2.25	2.37	2.3189
Swedish krona	0.4830	0.4708	0.45	0.48	0.4683
Norwegian krona	0.5115	0.5198	0.50	0.53	0.5167
Denish krona	0.8258	0.8344	0.81	0.85	0.8239
Finland mark	0.8875	0.8986	0.87	0.91	0.8834
Canadian dollar	2.4325	2.4718	2.39	2.51	2.4534
Australian dollar	2.5325	2.5784	2.49	2.61	2.5528
EURO	1.7009	1.7123	1.68	1.72	1.7075
S. African rand	0.9715	0.9872	0.86	1.01	0.9788
Belgian franc (10)	2.8478	2.8858	2.79	2.94	2.8710
Austrian schilling (10)	2.0705	2.1036	2.03	2.14	2.0856
Italian lira (1000)	4.9300	4.9400	4.89	4.94	4.9285
Jordanian dinar	0.9300	1.0100	0.89	1.01	1.0100
Egyptian pound	3.9064	3.9855			3.9403
Irish punt	5.2857	5.3710	5.19	5.45	5.3801
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4038	2.4429	2.36	2.48	2.4231

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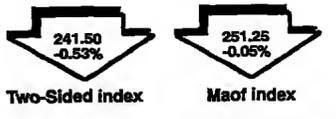
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TA shares close mixed

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET DAN GERSTENFELD



Shares closed slightly lower yesterday in mixed and selective trading as investors waited to see how Israeli high-tech stocks would fare in New York, traders said.

World Markets Dollar vaults hurdles, bourses mixed

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar broke through 118 yen for the first time in almost four years yesterday and vaulted important hurdles against the mark and Swiss franc.

Dow edges towards record

(Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks edged into record territory yesterday on more upbeat earnings from high technology companies, but the market was nervous ahead of today's testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan on the economy.

WHERE TO GO

- TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andres Serrano: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the museum collection. Luxon Freix selection of works. Tzvi Hecker: Sunflower. Portraits. By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David. The Inverted Campaign. Hebrew Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 48, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5828219.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table with columns: Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, MORNING. Lists various stocks and their prices.

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Table with columns: NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, Frankfurt. Lists international stock prices for various companies.

Key Representative Rates: US Dollar .NIS 3.2570 +0.52, Sterling .NIS 6.4605 -0.19, Mark .NIS 2.0206 -1.02

NYSE STOCK MARKET: NYSE Composite, NYSE Industrial, NYSE Transportation, NYSE Utility, NYSE Energy, NYSE Chemical, NYSE Technology, NYSE Health Care, NYSE Consumer Goods, NYSE Consumer Services, NYSE Financial, NYSE Real Estate, NYSE Other.

Other stock market indexes: FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, Hang Seng, etc.

Israeli stocks in US: Amgen, Intel, Microsoft, etc.

Foreign financial data: CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds.

LIBOR RATES: 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

US Commodities: Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton, etc.

London Commodities: Gold, Silver, etc.

Spect metal prices (US): Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal prices: Gold, Silver, etc.

London metal prices: Gold, Silver, etc.

Dollar surges to 4-year high against yen

today 1st stage

ONEY MARKET

Sampras heads to quarters

MELBOURNE (AP) - But for some crucial double faults, Grand Slam newcomer Dominik Hrbaty might have added world No. 1 Pete Sampras to the list of prominent upset victims at the Australian Open yesterday.

Sampras said luck and "just trying to hang in there" decided his 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 advance to the quarter-finals, in nearly three hours of 60-degree Celsius temperatures on court.

"I was very impressed. ... I think he will be a player to be reckoned with. With a little more experience, he has a good chance of beating me," Sampras said of the 19-year-old Slovak player, who has shot up in little more than a year from 364th to 76th in the world rankings.

Hrbaty, who at this time last year was practicing at home, appeared bemused by all the attention. He wasn't nervous, he said, and he blamed "technical problems" for his 15 double faults - including three that contributed to the loss of his last two service games.

His double faults also contributed to decisive service breaks in the second and third sets.

"I have to see the video from this match ... to see what was wrong," he said.

No. 3 seed Goran Ivanisevic also escaped an upset, serving four aces and a service winner when he was down 0-40 at 3-3 in the final set en route to a 4-6, 6-2, 6-7 (7-9), 6-3, 6-3 victory over Norway's Christian Ruud.

Ivanisevic said the cold towel on his neck during changeovers was the best part of the 3-hour, 4-minute match - 11 minutes longer than Sampras's.

Even when he was hitting those four aces, "I was just thinking about the towel, you know."

Sampras next plays No. 10 seed Albert Costa of Spain, who advanced when No. 12 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa retired with a pulled thigh muscle, suffered in the first set. He was trailing 6-3, 6-2, 3-2 when he stopped.

Ivanisevic now plays No. 5 Thomas Muster who defeated No. 11 Jim Courier 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

On the women's side, Dominique van Roost continued her upsets, ousting 1996 semifinalist Chanda Rubin, the 15th seed, 7-5, 6-4 after receiving an injury timeout at 1-0 in the second set for treatment for a muscle injury in her lower back.

Only one of the top seven seeds - No. 4 Martina Hingis - remained in the field, and she had to struggle to stay there.



SEZZLING HOT - Top seed Pete Sampras returns a shot to Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty under the blazing Australian sun.

Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir pushed her into a series of errors in the first set by teasing her with an assortment of paces, depths and spins.

Hingis finally won 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 on center court, which still felt like an oven even after the sun had sunk behind the stadium walls.

She now plays No. 8 Irina Spirlea of Romania, who beat No.

9 Karina Habsudova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-4.

No. 1 Steffi Graf, a victim of the heat, an infected toe and the relentless retrieving of No. 12 Amanda Coetzer, lost on Sunday.

Van Roost, who eliminated No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on Saturday, played the same bundling, go-for-broke game against Rubin.

"She's a real feisty player," said

Rubin. "She went out there and took a lot of chances and came up big. She was right on top of the ball and that was the story of the match."

Van Roost next plays No. 14 Mary Joe Fernandez, a two-time Australian Open finalist. Fernandez won 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 against Switzerland's Patty Schnyder.

Reeves hired as Falcons new coach

ATLANTA (AP) - Dan Reeves, the winningest active coach in the NFL, was hired yesterday by the Atlanta Falcons as their coach and head of football operations.

Reeves, who was fired by the New York Giants at the end of the season, succeeds June Jones and is introduced at a news conference today.

The Falcons said Reeves signed a five-year deal that will give him the additional title of executive vice president of football operations. He will have virtual free reign in running the team.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution said the contract is worth \$7.5 million to \$8 million - almost double what any previous Falcons coach has earned.

Reeves, who turned 53 Sunday, is returning to his Georgia roots. He takes over a club coming off another dismal season. Atlanta, a playoff team in 1995 for only the fifth time in its 31 years, slumped to 3-13 this season, a tumultuous year marked by a public dispute between Jones and quarterback Jeff George.

George was released after playing only three games and Jones lost his job at the end of the season, though he still had two years on his contract.

Reeves was fired by the Giants on December 23, the same day Jones was dismissed, after a 31-33 record and one playoff appearance in four seasons. Reeves has a career record of 149-113-1, making him the 10th winningest coach in NFL history.

Falcons president Taylor Smith, intent on hiring a big-name coach and giving him virtually total control of the team, interviewed only two candidates, both with ties to

Georgia. Bobby Ross, a former Georgia Tech coach who was ousted by the San Diego Chargers, was apparently the top choice, but he accepted an offer from the Detroit Lions.

That left Reeves, a native of Rome, Georgia, whose mother lives in the southwest Georgia town of Americus and whose brother and sister live in suburban Atlanta.

Reeves originally interviewed with the Falcons in 1977 while serving as an assistant with Dallas Cowboys, but the job went to Leeman Bennett. Three years later, Reeves became the NFL's youngest coach when he took over the Denver Broncos at age 37.

He guided the Broncos to three Super Bowl appearances over the next 12 years before he was

released. In 1993, Reeves went to New York to assume control of a team that was bitterly divided after missing the playoffs in its only two seasons under Ray Handley.

Reeves is the 11th coach in Falcons history and will have more control than any of his predecessors.

"This time, I don't question my qualifications or my resolve," Reeves said recently, referring to his first interview with the Falcons two decades earlier.

"Commitment and everyone working together is what gets the job done," he added. "Certainly you win with personnel. But I think I know what it takes to succeed at this level, and a big part of it is structure."

Report: Patriots coach to leave team

BOSTON (AP) - Word of coach Bill Belichick's departure from the Patriots has been spreading since the team's victory yesterday. Sources said the Patriots will not retain the coach because of his deteriorating relationship with owner Bob Kraft, including the coach's desire to have full control over the team and a dispute over his contract.

Kraft, Patriots and the team flew to New Orleans on Sunday to prepare for Super Bowl XXXI on January 26 against the Green Bay Packers and will not be available for comment. Belichick has reportedly refused to talk about his future, but his departure was widely expected by many Boston sports columnists.

The New York Jets are rumored to be interested in signing Belichick, the Globe said. Kraft reportedly believes there is a language in the contract, which expires on February 1, by which he can require Belichick to coach for the 1997 season for a salary of \$13 million, the newspaper said.

National team readies for Greeks

By DEREK FATTAL

Israel's national soccer squad gathered together yesterday to prepare for tomorrow evening's international meeting against Greece at the capital's Teddy Stadium.

Coach Shlomo Scharf has drafted two extra players into the squad in readiness for the game, the first in a series of three friendlies that sees Israel host European Champions Germany next month, followed by a match against Sweden.

Hapoel Haifa's Ran Ben-Shimon has been brought in to cover for his injured clobmate, Tal Banir, and Maccabi-Petah Tikva's goalkeeper replaces Benny Ginsburg who has been dropped after a severe loss of form this season at club and international level.

The squad is once again dominated by players from Betar Jerusalem - with seven squad members being drawn from the league leaders.

Scharf will be compelled to experiment against the Greeks, particularly in midfield as Haim Revivo is staying in Spain for Celta Vigo's meeting at the weekend with Real Madrid and Eyal Berkovitz will miss the match due to demands of his club Southampton. Their absence means that Betar's Itzik Zohar looks certain to start in midfield in a match that should provide a perfect opportunity for him to finally prove his worth to Shlomo Scharf on his long and arduous journey to Yossi Abuksis.

In other news, Israel Radio announced last night that Hapoel Tel Aviv manager Moshe Sinai will terminate his contract after Saturday's game.

Witness: Grobbelaar talked of match-fixing

WINCHESTER (AP) - Bruce Grobbelaar's former business partner testified yesterday he twice witnessed the former Liverpool goalkeeper collecting cash from a stranger and heard him say he was prepared to fix soccer games "for big bucks."

"He told me he had been introduced to some men from the Far East who were prepared to pay him £1,500 to £2,000 a week for pre-

dicting the outcome of football games," Chris Vincent told a jury at Winchester Crown Court.

Then the arrangement switched to match-fixing, Vincent alleged. "Grobbelaar said something along the lines of, 'You know those people I told you about from the Far East? Well, I'm going to meet one of them and we're going to discuss getting paid for fixing football games,'" Vincent testified.

"My response was, 'So that Liverpool lose?'" Vincent said. "He said, 'Yeah.'"

Vincent, who said the conversation took place in 1993, testified he asked Grobbelaar how he could fix games. "He replied, 'I have been a Liverpool goalkeeper for 14 years and if I was standing a yard or a foot off my line nobody would know."

SCOREBOARD

PREMIER LEAGUE: Yesterday's result - West Ham 0, Leeds 2.

LOCAL SCENE

Erlich trounces Uzbekistani opponent in friendly

By HEATHER CHAIT

It was just a friendly match but Eyal Erlich did not let the opportunity slip. Erlich, 252 in the world, scored a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over Uzbekistan's Oleg Ogorodov (141) in the first singles match of the clash between Israel and Uzbekistan on Kiryat Shmona's covered courts last week.

Nir Welgreen (264) lost by precisely the same score to Dmitry Tomashovich (330). The four players then returned for the doubles which the visitors won 7-6, 7-5 to win 2-1 overall.

GOLF: The first round of the annual Grand Prize Tournament was played at Caesarea's Golf Club over the weekend. The competition, divided into two handicap divisions (0-18 and 19-36) attracted 130 participants, each seeking the prize of a trip to the US.

One round will be played in each of the first four months of the year. Top of Division A is presently Cyril Kaufman with 42 points, Richard Fogelson on 41 and Yigal Salach on 40. Baruch

Baltaks leads the B division with 41, Yitzhak Dankner and Eli Gitlin are tied on 40 in second place.

In the individual stableford division held concurrently, Kaufman was first with 42 in Division A, Fogelson won Division B with 41, Dankner and Gitlin tied in C division with 40 and Katriel Springer on 39 was first in Division D.

ICE-SKATING: Mt. Hermon may just be starting to show off its snowcaps that the winter sports season is well under way. This week three Israeli champions in the European Figure Skating Championships, Israel's debut appearance in the event.

Misha Shmerkin, Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovsky are the local names. Chances look good for Shmerkin who placed 11th in the last two world championships. A fifth placing in the preliminary rounds was sufficient for him to enter the main event.

The ice dancing couple of Chait and Sakhnovsky is seeking to improve their present world ranking of 23 to around the 15 mark. Watch Eurosport for live coverage.

BADMINTON: Israel's team finished in 14th place and runner-up in its section in the Helvetia Cup tournament in Strasbourg, France. The players' beat Malta (5-0), Slovakia (5-0) and Romania (3-2) while Belarus downed the squad 4-1. Belarus continued to win the section.

SQUASH: The next Grand Prix squash tournament will be held from February 2-8 at the Ra'anana squash club. Everyone is welcome, men and women, and entry forms are available at all clubs which are members of the Israel Squash Rackets Association. Sign up and get into shape for the national championships to be held on March 2. Call 09 7448115.

JUDO: It's the turn of women in sport as the Jerusalem Municipality's Sports Authority launches a program to support and advance women's sport at all levels and ages. Unshering in the project will be the first open girls judo championships to be held this Thursday, Tu B'Shvat. The event, sponsored by the municipality, the Education Ministry's unit to promote women in sport

and the Judo Association, will be held at the martial arts center at Teddy Stadium, beginning at 2 pm.

MACCABIAH: In this non-Olympic year, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, has a slightly less pressured schedule. This may be the reason why he has promised to do his utmost to be present at the 15th Maccabiah Games which open in July.

SOCCER TIDBITS: Following in daddy's footsteps is 18-year-old Isfan Bahloul, the daughter of radio and TV personality, Zohar, who this week settled down comfortably behind a microphone in her own right. Ms. Bahloul, a student at Haifa University, presents a sports program on Radio Haifa twice a week.

Meanwhile, the bright lights of Amsterdam and of Ajax could not quell the attractions of life in Dimona so 16-year-old Yossi Benayoun came home. "I couldn't function anymore without my mother and my girlfriend," the youth said as he resumed his seat in school next to his girlfriend, Miri Ben-Baruch.

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Pakistan clinches World Series Cup

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram shrugged off injury to spearhead a fast bowling rout of West Indies as his team clinched the World Series Cup yesterday.

The Pakistanis took the triangular limited overs competition for the first time after a decisive 62-run victory in the second match of the best-of-three final.

They made only a modest 165 in 48.3 of their 50 overs but dispatched West Indies for 103 in 40.3 overs, Akram providing the inspiration despite being restricted by a niggling hamstring injury.

Not even a power failure that left the stadium in darkness for 24 minutes could distract Pakistan from its task in taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the final.

Akram dismissed opener Sherwin Campbell and middle order pair Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Carl Hooper in sweltering temperatures at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Pakistan's skipper was clearly troubled by the injury in the field but he still generated extreme pace, bounce and movement off the seam from a short run-up to take three for 17.

Fellow fast bowler Shahid Nazir, drafted into the side to

replace leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, justified his selection by exploiting a lively pitch to finish with outstanding figures of three for 14 from his 10 overs.

South Africa-India: South Africa lost four wickets for only 72 runs on the last morning of the third Test against India, leaving it hoping for rain to avoid a loss.

The South Africans already clinched the series by winning the first two Tests, but a batting collapse early in their second innings put them in disastrous shape at 76 for five at lunch.

India set the home side a target of 356 for victory, mostly on the strength of Rahul Dravid's run-making. Dravid scored the only century of the match in his first innings with 148 runs, then added 81 in his second innings.

South Africa's second innings began badly when opener Andrew Hudson got bowled by Anil Kumble in the fifth over late Sunday. Things got worse when the other opener, Gary Kirsten, fell without scoring a run in the first over yesterday.

Kirsten steered Venkatesh Prasad's third delivery straight to third slip Vikram Rathore and

India was looking at a quick kill. Adam Bacheer misplayed a Prasad delivery on to his wickets to go out at 25, and captain Hansie Cronje fell at six on a running error by Daryll Cullinan, who took off on a short shot to leave Cronje helpless against the run out.

When Brian McMillan got caught after only two runs, South Africa was 76 for five in 23 overs and facing certain defeat. Then a thunderstorm interrupted play and forced an early lunch, and the South Africans could only hope the rain continued. (Reuters, AP)

(Scores at lunch): India first innings 410. South Africa first innings 321. India second innings (288 for 8 wickets declared). South Africa second innings (4 for 1 wicket overnight).

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes: A. Hudson b Kumble 3, G. Kirsten c Rathore b Prasad 1, A. Bacheer b Prasad 23, D. Cullinan not out 80, H. Cronje run out (Kumble) 6, B. McMillan c sub (Dharmam) b Srinath 2, S. Pollock not out 11, Extras 10, Total (for 8 wickets) 76 - 23.3 overs (rain stopped play, lunch). Fall of wickets: 14 24 34 47 57 8. Bowling: Srinath 11-5-27-1 (1mi), Prasad 10-1-37-2, Kumble 2.8-12-1.

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NEWS

in brief

IBA budget passes Finance Committee

The Knesset Finance Committee finally approved the Israel Broadcasting Authority's 1997 budget yesterday, three weeks after the start of the fiscal year. Despite the lengthy battle which preceded the vote, the NIS 654 million budget passed easily, with only one opposing vote, from MK Zvi Heudel (National Religious Party). The budget includes a NIS 20m. cut, as part of the general 1997 budget-cutting package.

However, the committee also decided the IBA would have to report within three months on the steps it has taken to improve its financial management. If they do not appear satisfactory, said committee chairman Avraham Ravitz, a subcommittee will be set up to monitor the IBA's management. *Evelyn Gordon*

Court orders Hammer to justify censorship

The High Court of Justice yesterday gave Education Minister Zevulun Hammer 30 days to justify his refusal to broadcast an Educational TV program on homosexuality. The program, which is part of the *Open Cards* series, has been kept off the air by Hammer since November. The show-censor order was issued in response to a petition by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel and two advocacy groups for homosexual rights. *Evelyn Gordon*

No trial for Tiberias mayor

State Attorney Edna Arbel, who is also acting attorney-general, has decided that there is insufficient evidence to bring Tiberias Mayor Yossi Peretz to trial on bribery charges. Peretz is suspected of bribing Givati Ben-Yosef, a former head of the town's labor council and Labor Party candidate for mayor. *Itim*

Kindergarten teacher suspected of abuse

A kindergarten teacher suspected of abusing youngsters in her kindergarten was placed under house arrest for seven days yesterday by the Rehovot Magistrate's Court. The judge agreed to a defense request not to publicize the woman's name or the location of the kindergarten. The teacher was arrested Sunday after Rehovot police received complaints about suspected abuse of the children. Testimony was also taken from other care-givers at the kindergarten. *Itim*

Science for Peace conference opens

A conference on how science and scientists can contribute to the promotion of peace opened this week at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus in Jerusalem. The Second Symposium on Science for Peace will be attended by experts from around the world, including some from Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. During the conference, participants will draft the Jerusalem Statement on Science for Peace, which will call on scientists to pledge that their scientific activities will be dedicated to the enhancement of peace, protection of the human race, improvement of the quality of life and conservation of the environment. *Judy Siegel*

Migrating birds in danger

Millions of migrating birds which every year pass over the Eilat salt marshes are in danger of having their feeding and resting ground destroyed, according to ornithologist Dr. Reuven Yosef, who runs an independent bird sanctuary in the area. Yosef said that members of Kibbutz Eilat yesterday brought in bulldozers to develop the land, despite disputed ownership of the area. "In Nature Protection Week, of all weeks, the kibbutzniks are endangering millions of birds from hundreds of species," he said. The kibbutz could not be reached for a response. *Liat Collins*

Murder victim's wife and brother arrested

Police arrested on Sunday night the wife and brother of Ali Bin Hassan Daoud, a 30-year-old Abu Siman resident who was killed over the weekend, on suspicion of murder. The suspects' remand hearing is scheduled for today at the Acre Magistrate's Court. *Itim*

IEC official suspected of bribe-taking

Menahem Anani, head of customers division the Israel Electric Corp.'s Tiberias branch, was remanded for four days yesterday on suspicion of forgery and accepting hundreds of thousands of shekels in bribes. A contractor also was arrested on suspicion of bribing Anani and is to be remanded today. Police said that dozens of other arrests will be made in connection with the case. *Itim*

Clalit's Kaplan resigns

By JUDY SIEGEL

Kupat Holim Clalit director-general Avigdor Kaplan dropped a bombshell yesterday when he announced his plans to resign after four years in the job - during which he managed to greatly improve the health fund's level of service, financial condition and image.

While stating clearly that his reasons for not seeking another term were "personal," he voiced his concern about the growing deficit in the health system, and called on the "captains of the economy to prevent the financial decline" facing all the health funds.

Kaplan, 57, said he has received a number of tempting offers from the private sector, and plans to "start a new chapter" in his life.

Completing his four-year contract in November, Kaplan said he had worked hard with Clalit staffers to renew the health fund and prepare it for the 21st century. "It is now a different health fund, providing high-quality with high accessibility to 60 percent of the population and at a lower relative cost compared to the other insurers."

Kaplan's announcement was so sudden that he informed Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, Finance Minister Dan Meridor, and Clalit chairman Dan Michaeli only a few hours before. A replacement will have to be named by Clalit's 51-member council and approved by Matza and Meridor.

Matza said he tried to persuade Kaplan not to leave, as "the health system is now in one of its most difficult hours ... and we need the experience and ability of a man like Kaplan, who contributed much to Clalit's recovery."

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz also asked Kaplan to reconsider, and invited him to a meeting set for today. Peretz attempted to put the onus on the government's "low priority for health," rather than Kaplan's personal reasons.

The union of Kupat Holim Clalit hospital and community clinic doctors also asked Kaplan to change his mind. "We are sad and disappointed. Without Avigdor Kaplan's great efforts, his devotion and dedication, it is reason-



Kupat Holim Clalit director-general Avigdor Kaplan announces his resignation yesterday. He said he has received a number of tempting offers from the private sector. *(Israel Sun)*

able to say that the health fund would have been in danger of collapse. His resignation could bring about Clalit's decline and that of the entire health system," the union said.

Matza, speaking on Israel Radio, said he understood Kaplan's worries about the health system. "The truth is that the government has not put health at the top of its priorities, and there is a gap between the basket of health services - which as set [two years ago] is not adequate - and the resources needed to pay for it ... The Treasury must give priority to the health system."

Matza noted that in a meeting with directors of the government hospitals on Sunday, he received reports of severe overcrowding in internal medicine departments. As a result, some patients have been sent home in only three days or less, much below the norm.

"There is no doubt that discharging such patients before they have fully recovered poses a real danger to their survival," he said.

He said he would invite Meridor to tour hospital departments with him to get a first-hand impression, and would meet with Meridor

today to try to create a "package deal" involving efficiency measures for all health funds and increased government allocations at least for 1998.

"If I don't achieve this, I intend to get the prime minister involved, as the Finance Ministry, with its senior officials, view the health system differently. These are serious things I'm saying, but I'm going to initiate a discussion; otherwise the system will collapse. Kaplan knew to leave at the right moment ... because he didn't find the Treasury willing to help."

A-G footdragging in prosecutions, Knesset told

By EVELYN GORDON

None of the 11 incidents transferred to the attorney-general by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat over the past two years has yet resulted in an indictment, the Knesset State Control Committee was told yesterday.

Committee members were shocked by this revelation. Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) noted that if public officials are not prosecuted for illegal acts within a reasonable amount of time, the deterrent value of the indictment is impaired. Furthermore, he said, such drawn-out investigations are unfair to the suspect, and also often result in no indictment being filed because the statute of limitations has expired in the meantime.

Deputy State Attorney Rahel Sacar responded that it is often very difficult and time-consuming

to investigate the matters referred by the state comptroller, because there is such a large time lag between when the incidents occur and when they finally arrive at the State Attorney's Office. Furthermore, she said, the comptroller's reports rarely contain enough evidence to support criminal charges, so further investigation is almost always necessary.

Cohen responded that the law should be changed to enable the comptroller to transfer material to the attorney-general at an earlier stage. MKs Moshe Shahal (Labor), Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) and David Tal (Shas) agreed. However, Gafni and Tal warned that it was important this be done in such a way that the division of labor between the comptroller and the attorney-general not be blurred.

Sacar also argued that while long delays in submitting an indictment

were certainly a failure on the law enforcement front, legal proceedings are often of secondary importance in these matters.

"The more important public issue is to correct the administrative impropriety," she said. "If this is done, then on the whole we consider this more appropriate."

Noam Solberg, a senior assistant to the attorney-general, noted that this is often what happens. For instance, he said, a police investigation into whether various religious institutions obtained funding from the Religious Affairs Ministry on the basis of false information - a suspicion raised by Ben-Porat in her 1995 report - is still in process. On the administrative level, however, the matter has been dealt with, he said. The ministry has demanded that these organizations return the funds and has stopped funding some of them.

Sacar told the committee that of the five complaints passed on to the attorney-general by Ben-Porat in 1995, two have come back to the State Attorney's Office following a police investigation, with a police recommendation to prosecute.

Of the six matters referred to the attorney-general by Ben-Porat in 1996, Sacar said, three have been passed on to the police for investigation, two are still being examined by the State Attorney's Office, and one was closed due to lack of public interest.

Bill would put MKs' salaries in hands of public

By EVELYN GORDON

The Knesset Law Committee will submit a bill to put a public committee in charge of setting the salaries of ministers, MKs, judges, and other public figures, the committee announced yesterday.

MKs' salaries are set by the House Committee, while judges' are determined by the Finance Committee. Ministers' salaries are linked to those of MKs. Both Knesset committees have come under criticism for approving exorbitant benefits for their "clients," and the bill is meant to put salary determinations into the hands of a disinterested party.

Under the bill, the public com-

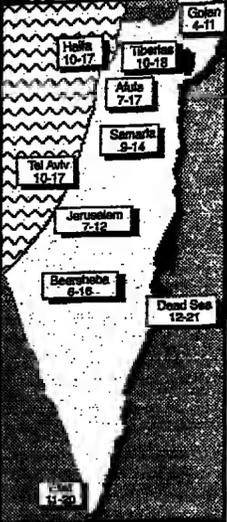
mittee would also set the salaries of the president, the chief rabbi, the state comptroller, the governor of the Bank of Israel and religious court judges.

Meanwhile, the Finance Committee published the updated base salaries of ministers and judges, in light of the 3.4 percent raise they received this month. This raise was due to the 3.4% increase in the average wage over the past six months, as the base salaries of judges and ministers are linked to the average wage.

Judges' actually earn much more, since they are given a seniority bonus equal to 4% of their base pay for each of the first five years and 1% thereafter.

Position	Salary (NIS)
Prime Minister	22,200
Deputy Prime Minister	18,000
Minister	12,000
Deputy Minister	8,000
State Comptroller	12,000
Chief Rabbi	12,000
President	12,000
Supreme Court Justice	12,000
Supreme Court Judge	12,000
Prime Minister's Office	12,000
Deputy Prime Minister's Office	12,000
Minister's Office	12,000
Deputy Minister's Office	12,000
State Comptroller's Office	12,000
Chief Rabbi's Office	12,000
President's Office	12,000
Supreme Court	12,000
Supreme Court Judge	12,000
Prime Minister's Office	12,000
Deputy Prime Minister's Office	12,000
Minister's Office	12,000
Deputy Minister's Office	12,000
State Comptroller's Office	12,000
Chief Rabbi's Office	12,000
President's Office	12,000
Supreme Court	12,000
Supreme Court Judge	12,000

WEATHER



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Wind
Amsterdam	04	08	Clear
Berlin	04	08	Clear
Buenos Aires	21	26	Clear
Cartagena	18	24	Clear
Chicago	18	24	Clear
Copenhagen	01	05	Cloudy
Frankfurt	02	06	Cloudy
Geneva	02	06	Cloudy
Hong Kong	17	20	Clear
Jakarta	23	29	Partly cloudy
London	02	06	Cloudy
Los Angeles	11	15	Clear
Madrid	04	08	Clear
Moscow	01	05	Cloudy
Montreal	01	05	Cloudy
New York	01	05	Cloudy
Paris	03	07	Cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the seven of spades, the eight of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the jack of clubs.

Bezeq OKs new head

Bezeq's board of directors last night approved the nomination of Dr. Yoram Turbowicz, 38, as new director-general, replacing Yitzhak Kaul, who is moving on to manage Clal-Isral after six years in the post. *Judy Siegel*

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